FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PARAGUAYAN LEADER IN EXILE MEETS ALFONSIN

PY2722Z5 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2114 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- Miguel Gonzalez Casabianca, head of the Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO], reported today at Government House, after a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin, that he will return to Paraguay after a lengthy period of exile in Argentina.

The Paraguayan leader, accompanied by members of the MOPOCO government junta, told reporters that he will return to his homeland the day after tomorrow. He added that he talked with the Argentine president on subjects related to Southern Cone policy.

IV CORPS, OTHER MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS DISSOLVED

PY271224 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The IV Army Corps, the Military Institutes Command, and the Army General Secretariat have been dissolved.

INVESTIGATION OF UNIDENTIFIED CORPSES BEGINS

PY231806 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] An investigation was begun into over 30 corpses reportedly buried without proper identification and procedures in the Buenos Aires districts of Moreno and Vicente Lopez, local authorities confirmed.

Moreno district authorities confirmed that they had received a report saying that 23 or 24 "NN" (no name) corpses -- including seven corresponding to minors -- were buried in the local cemetery, including those of 12 people who reportedly died in an armed confrontation on March 29, 1976.

Sources at the Moreno cemetery said the corpses had been taken there in early April of that year by an Air Force truck, and added that there were also live children in the truck who were later taken to the Riglos Institute, which is managed by the provincial authorities for minors. The sources said that similar procedures had been commonplace at the time, but declined to give further details.

A Buenos Aires evening newspaper reported on that day that 12 people had been killed and three arrested by Army police and other security forces during a confrontation in Moreno.

Members of the Buenos Aires provincial legislature's rights and guarantees committee went to Moreno yesterday afternoon to begin an investigation into the unidentified corpses. A judge surnamed Lombardi, who has taken over the corresponding court case, had ordered the unburial of the corpses within the next 48 hours.

Meanwhile, in Vicente Lopez, NN corpses corresponding to four women and seven men were found. Eight of the corpses were buried without identification on police orders, after they had been killed "by joint security forces during an armed confrontation." The three other corpses had "bullet wounds", a police report said.

The finding of the corpses was announced at a press conference by Vicente Lopez Mayor Jorge Sabbatini, who said investigations will be continued, on the belief that other NN corpses might be found.

"When I took office," Sabbatini said, "we received papers which reported the existence of other corpses buried without identification" in the cemetery, "and this was verified by examining the cemetery records."

After the information had been checked, the situation was reported to Criminal Judge Sordelli Carreras.

The 11 corpses were buried in common graves, without coffins, when the Vicente Lopez cemetery was directed by Miguel Angel Perez, who reported his actions in a letter dated on January 5, 1977, addressed to Roberto Gauna, who was then the district's public works secretary.

In the letter, Perez said the eight corpses had been buried on the orders of Police Chief Walter Polidori, of the Munro precinct, who sent a letter to the cemetery, dated on December 31, 1976, explaining that the people had been killed in an "armed confrontation."

The order for the burial of the other three unidentified corpses was also issued by the Munro police precinct, in a letter dated on January 13, 1977.

Remains at Rafael Calzada

PY271535 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2235 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Dec (DYN) -- After 4 hours of work at the Rafael Calzada Cemetery, south of greater Buenos Aires, at least 15 skulls were found along with other remains of unidentified human bodies.

The work was directed by Lomas de Zamora Federal Judge Julio Amancio Piggio. Two skulls found at the site showed bullet holes.

Because of the assortment of the remains found, the medical examiners will be hard-pressed to determine the actual number of bodies found, as many of the bones were buried in a scattered fashion.

FEDERAL JUDGE ORDERS OBREGON CANO'S ARREST

PY272100 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1649 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- Federal Judge Siro de Martini today ordered the arrest of former Cordoba governor Ricardo Obregon Cano, who was charged with aggravated illegal association, and placed an embargo on his possessions of up to 1,000 pesos.

The aggravated nature of the crime prevents Obregon Cano from being released. He has been held in custody since last week at the detention center located at 1147 Viamonte Street, in this capital.

Obregon Cano's lawyers, Fernando Enrique Torres and Gustavo Semorile, have appealed Judge de Martini's decision.

OFFICERS WHO FLEW TO ISRAEL TO BE PUNISHED

PY262111 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1230 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Dec (NA) -- Reliable sources from the Air Force have reported that the three lieutenant colonels who traveled to Israel on 12 December in an Air Force plane without clearing customs and immigration control will serve a sentence of more than 30 days.

The three passengers who failed to clear the customs control office will also serve the same sentence.

The following lieutenant colonels will serve sentences: flight commander Juan Daniel Paulik; first pilot Adolfo Retondale, and second pilot Rodolfo Nunez.

The sentence given these officers has been considered "very severe by the Air Force."

The following persons also traveled with the three lieutenant colonels: Major Hector Pupek, their pilot; noncommissioned officers Aroldo Bonorino and Antonio Pereyra, cargo and dispatch auxiliaries; noncommissioned officers Flavio Lucion and Jorge Gamba, mechanics; and noncommissioned officers Juan Bonfiglio, Horacio Gauna, and Enrique Hlaczik, crewmen.

A relative (daughter) of Major Saporki was also among the travelers for logistical reasons, because her parents are living in Israel. A colonel and his wife also traveled in the plane for similar reasons, since they have a son living in Israel.

PERONIST LEADERS SCORE UNION REORGANIZATION PLAN

PY270135 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1104 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Dec (NA) -- The Justicialist Party stated today that the union reorganization proposal represents a "violation," because, through the approval of this proposal, the national government intends to "prevent the organized workers movement from participating in discussing and solving great national problems."

The violation, cited by the Peronist National Council in a statement released tonight, refers to the agreements on union freedom that Argentina had signed with the International Labor Organization.

In a "special session" that lasted more than 4 hours, this Peronist council also decided to give "total and unrestricted support to the task of the blocs (of deputies and senators) in defense of the union structures to counteract the advance of the executive branch."

In view of this position, the council, which is headed by Lorenzo Miguel, has decided to resolutely promote the unity of the two workers federations, urging them to begin "monolithic and joint action in view of these events," it was revealed at the end of the meeting.

The first step toward unity was taken at Hotel Presidente where all members of the party board and top leaders of the General Confederation of Labor [CGT]-Republic of Argentina and the CGT-Azopardo gathered last night in view of the year-end celebrations.

The party leaders also discussed the possibility of holding the internal elections for party posts ahead of time, although the idea of postponing the decision until "the return of Mrs Peron to the country" prevailed.

BRIEFS

ARGENTINA, JAPAN SIGN NOTES -- Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (DYN) -- Argentina and Japan have exchanged notes whereby the Japanese Government will donate 1,080,000,000 yen to help establish a national fishing school in Argentina. The notes state that the donation "is intended to strengthen friendly relations and cooperation between the two nations." [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1045 GMT 8 Dec 83 PY]

TREASURY ATTORNEY DESIGNATED -- Buenos Aires, 16 Dec (TELAM) -- Dr Hector Pedro Fasi has been designated legal counsel for the national Treasury Department. Fasi will replace Carlos Alberto Vaquer, whose resignation has been accepted through Decree No 180. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1252 GMT 16 Dec 83 PY]

NEW INSTITUTE CREATED -- Buenos Aires, 8 Dec (NA) -- The national government has decided to create, within the Economy Ministry, a national institute for overall assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises, to "genuinely and adequately promote the production of these companies. This institute will be decentralized, have public and private rights, and be able to carry out various types of actions, conclude contracts, and engage in operations directly related to its objective. It will advise the national and provincial governments, represent the country in international meetings, and decide on the definition of "small and medium-sized enterprises." [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1915 GMT 8 Dec 83 PY]

NEW ELMA PRESIDENT -- Buenos Aires, 12 Dec (TELAM) -- Captain Rene C. Charpentier has accepted the presidency of the Argentine Shipping Lines [ELMA]. Charpentier's decision was revealed after a meeting he held with Public Works and Services Minister Roque Carranza, who will install him this afternoon. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2215 GMT 12 Dec 83 PY]

OIL DISCOVERY IN FORMOSA -- Government Oil Deposits announced that oil was discovered in Formosa on 8 December. A productive layer was encountered at a depth of 3,800 meters in well Fr.PL.X-L, which is located in the northwestern most area of Formosa Province. [Summary] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Dec 83 p 6 PY]

MONETARY BUDGET FOR 1984 APPROVED BY CMN

PY232035 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Dec 83 p 22

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- After a 4-hour meeting yesterday, the National Monetary Council (CMN) approved the monetary budget for 1984. The budget foresees a 50-percent expansion of the monetary base (printed money) and of the money supply (paper money held by the public and demand deposits). It also foresees that Banco do Brasil operations will grow by 57 percent.

The CMN also decided to transfer 5.8 trillion cruzeiros from the fiscal budget to the monetary budget in fiscal year 1984. This will be done to fund different accounts in the monetary budget and to help finance the internal debt. It was also decided that beginning next year, the cost of credits for the agricultural and export sectors will be 100 percent of monetary correction plus a 3-percent interest rate. Concerning exports, the CMN decided that interests will no longer be charged at the beginning, but at the end of the financing operation. Finance Minister Ernane Galveas has estimated that these measures will result in an 85 percent actual monetary correction, plus 3-percent interest.

As for the agricultural sector, special measures have been maintained for rural producers in the northeastern region. They will pay 70 percent of the monetary correction until the first quarter of 1984, and 80 percent beginning on 1 July. The 35-percent subsidized rates for programs implemented in the driest areas have also been maintained. Small- and medium-sized enterprises will also pay next year 3-percent interest, in real terms, just as the agricultural and export sectors in the central and southern regions will do.

Concerning the internal public debt policy, the CMN decided that 1 trillion cruzeiros worth of bonds will be redeemed next year. According to Galveas, this means that the public sector deficit will not be financed by selling securities, but instead by transferring fiscal resources.

GUIMARAES WILL BE CANDIDATE IN DIRECT ELECTIONS

PY271415 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Dec 83 p 5

[Excerpt] As he arrived at Congonhas Airport from New York yesterday, Deputy Ulisses Guimaraes, president of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] confirmed that he is a presidential candidate, although not in an indirect election. He said that he personally is not in favor of the PMDB's participation in the succession process unless the election is direct.

With the attitude of a campaigning candidate, the PMDB president justified launching his candidacy in New York by saying it gives it a greater impact.

BRIEFS

RORAIMA GOVERNOR APPOINTED -- President Joao Figueredo today appointed General Aridio Martins de Magalhaes, retired, as the new Roraima federal territory governor. Martins Magalhaes replaces Brigadier General Vicente de Magalhaes Morais, who had asked to be relieved from this position. [Text] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 Dec 83 PY]

EX-MINISTER REPORTS PINOCHET LEAVING GOVERNMENT

PY271252 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0911 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 27 Dec (TELAM) -- Jaime Celedon, anchorman of the radio program "Time for an Analysis" aired by Radio Chilena, revealed last night that President Augusto Pinochet would be willing to leave the government next year.

Celedon announced that the information was disclosed by former Justice and Education Minister Monica Madariaga during a meeting she held with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Madrid recently. Madariaga said that a provisional government would be installed, headed by Supreme Court Presdent Rafael Retamal, with a cabinet comprised of Chilean politicians.

Celedon also quoted Monica Madariaga, who has been appointed Chilean ambassador to the OAS, as stating to Felipe Gonzalez that Pinochet is tired of being in power. Madariaga reportedly also furnished some details about the formation of the cabinet that would be in charge of the government.

Celedon concluded by stating that Monica Madariaga's statements coincide with statements made by Pinochet to a group of journalists about 2 weeks ago, the publication of which was not authorized. "I have the recording of that conversation. For this reason, I tell the Supreme Court president to be prepared," Celedon said.

Report Termed 'Unspeakable Lie'

PY272210 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonson Marquez de la Plata has referred to a statement by journalist Jaime Celedon as an unspeakable lie.

In a statement made to a Santiago radio program, Celedon noted that former Justice Minister Monica Madariaga had reportedly told Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez that General Augusto Pinochet would resign next year, and that a civilian cabinet headed by Supreme Court President Rafael Retamal would then take over.

[Begin Marquez de la Plata recording] Look, I believe that those who are concocting this sort of fabrication are acting with no sense of responsibility at all. You know Monica Madariaga, you know that she has worked for this government during all these years, that she is perfectly well aware of the line of thinking of the president, and that she knows very well the term and goals of this government. No one could possibly think that she might say something like that. Therefore, I believe this is an unspeakable lie. [end recording]

Marquez de la Plata also said that this is very serious.

[Begin recording] [Marquez de la Plata] I believe this is very serious, because Monica Madariaga is someone to be respected, and no one should spread this kind of fabrication about her.

[Question] In short, Minister, hasn't the Chilean Government [words indistinct]?

[Marquez de la Plata] Absolutely none. It is a ploy, and it is totally false. [end recording]

Minister de la Plata concluded by saying that the institutionalization process will continue as scheduled. This sort of thing happens, he stressed, when the opposition has neither arguments nor tools to which they can resort.

This is the statement made by Celedon last night:

[Begin Celedon recording] A spokesman for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez clarified a report that the Prime Minister had been very pleased by the Chilean political transition period. According to the spokesman, Gonzalez was pleased because Monica Madariaga told him that Pinochet was tired of being in power, that he would resign in 1984, and that a civilian cabinet headed by Rafael Retamal would be appointed. This coincides with a statement made by President Pinochet during a luncheon attended by journalists some 15 days ago, when they were asked not to report what was said on the occasion. But I have a recorded tape. In an impromptu speech, President Pinochet said that the Chilean people would not tolerate more than 10 years without freedom, that they wanted to break their chains, and that he believed the time had come for the Chilean people to be released from their chains. This statement was recorded. [end recording]

In view of the situation, Radio Cooperative interviewed Monica Madariaga this morning.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] We want to talk with you about statements to the effect that you have reportedly told Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez that President Pinochet would resign next year and that a civilian cabinet headed by the Supreme Court president would replace him.

[Madariaga] When I heard the report, I first tried to confirm the date. I thought we had made a mistake, and it was actually 28 December [Latin America's April Fools' Day]. I then thought I was reading a science fiction novel. I really do not know who could have such a distorted mind to circulate that sort of report. That's all I have to say about this (?lie). [end recording]

President Pinochet was asked about the statement by Jaime Celedon.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Monica Madariaga never said that. She has just called me. She also sent a written note that I will deliver to you. [end recording]

President Augusto Pinochet then said categorically that the reports involving the former justice minister are absolutely false.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] Monica Madariaga has told me that the report is absolutely false and that she never said such a thing.

[Unidentified reporter] Why do you think this report was circulated?

[Pinochet] I am not surprised [words indistinct]. [end recording]

President Pinochet was also asked to give his opinion on the event.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] This is what people usually do when they have nothing else to do; they talk for the sake of talking, and they resort to (?rumors) or [words indistinct].

[Unidentified reporter] Does that mean that the process will continue as scheduled?

[Pinochet] Of course. [end recording]

The president was also asked about some rumors that circulated this morning about an alleged attack on his life.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] That's not true. You see that I am all right now [words indistinct]. I tore a muscle while jogging, but as you can see, I am all right now.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr President, why do you think such rumors are being circulated?

[Pinochet] There is a concerted campaign of rumors. They are always doing the same thing. [end recording]

CARABINERO SHOT IN WESTERN SANTIAGO 27 DEC

PY271420 Paris AFP in Spanish 1343 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Santiago, 27 Dec (AFP) -- Officials have reported that a Carabinero was shot today in Santiago, hit by at least four bullets.

The police immediately launched an extensive air-ground operation in the western part of Santiago, where this new attack against the police took place.

Last Friday two Carabineros were wounded in a similar attack, and on Sunday a policeman was shot to death by a criminal who also lost his life in the shootout, as reported at the time by an official source.

FURTHER ON MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS

PY270248 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Minister Secretary General of Government Alfonso Marquez de la Plata has said that the government is resorting to various measures to prevent terrorist actions. Talking to reporters, Marquez de la Plata reported on two meetings that the interior minister held this morning, one with security agency officials and one with the cabinet.

[Begin Marquez de la Plata recording] The attacks that have been staged against some opposition members were carefully analyzed during the meeting held by the interior minister and security officials. Thus far, everything indicates that those attacks were staged by terrorist groups that oppose the government. The purpose of these actions is to provoke conflict. Therefore, all necessary measures are being taken to prevent attacks. [end recording]

Concerning antiterrorist legislaton, Marquez de la Plata explained that this is being studied by the Interior Ministry.

HAVANA REPORTS RECENT ATTACKS, CP LETTER TO AD

PA231905 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] There have been three attacks in Chile in recent hours. As a result of these attacks, two policemen were wounded and a railroad sector was destroyed.

There was shooting in downtown Santiago between an armed command and Carabineros. A similar action took place in (Joao Goulart), on the outskirts of Santiago.

At dawn, a bomb exploded on the (Calera de Pango) railbridge, at km 26 of the southern railroad network.

Santiago's Association of Businessmen and the Democratic Alliance, an opposition group, have issued statements condemning police repression against street vendors and demanded the elimination of the National Information Center -- the Pinochet regime's political police.

The Chilean Communist Party has sent a letter to the Democratic Alliance, a center-right coalition, stating that democracy would be better served if the odd [as heard] discussions among those supporting and opposing the use of violence were suspended and an understanding reached among all the opposition forces.

The Communist Party letter states that in order to achieve this objective, it would be appropriate to respect the different methods of struggle of all opposition forces and duly acknowledge all actions that contribute to the development of mass struggle, the destabilization of the military regime, and a prompt end to the Pinochet dictatorship.

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SECRETARIAT CREATED

PY270246 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpt] The National Executive Employment Secretariat has been created. During a press conference, Colonel Atiliano Jara, the president of the secretariat, explained that the main objective of the agency will be to reduce the unemployment rate.

[Begin Jara recording] [in progress]... and we plan to reduce the unemployment rate to 12 or 13 percent by the end of 1984, that is, at the end of December 1984. This is our great task.

BRIEFS

NEW KUWAITI AMBASSADOR -- The Chilean Government has approved the appointment of Zakariya Abdallah al-Ansari as Kuwaiti ambassador to Chile. Zakariya Abdallah al-Ansari is currently Kuwaiti ambassador to Brazil. [Text] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Dec 83 PY]

ARGENTINE SENATOR MEETS PRESIDENT STROESSNER

PY272207 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 27 Dec 83 p 8

[Excerpt] Argentine ruling party Senator Fernando de la Rua met with President Alfredo Stroessner this morning. Shortly before returning to Buenos Aires, De la Rua told ULTIMA HORA about the meeting held with the Paraguayan president.

He said: "We confirmed our common will to implement the Yacyreta project, and then the Corpus project. We agreed that borders should not divide, that it is important to consolidate and strengthen democracy and freedom in Latin America, and that it is necessary to promote commercial and friendship ties between our two nations."

During his brief stay in our capital, De la Rua met with Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar, with Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro, and with all the opposition party leaders. According to the visitor, the meeting "strengthened friendship and democracy in Latin America, and involved no intervention at all."

EDITORIAL CONDEMNS CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT

PY240124 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 5

[Editorial: "In Keeping With Principles, Doctrines, and Rules]

[Text] Only the inheritors of the Nazi-fascist Decree No 152, and of Varela's Gestapo-like police gang, can think that President Stroessner's government or the Colorado Party will promote the establishment of illegal groups so that, through arbitrary violent methods, they can defend order, peace, democracy, and the peaceful coexistence of all those citizens who have agreed to live within the framework of the law. It is unthinkable to state, even as a slanderous intrigue, that gangs, groups, or "commandos" of any sort will be encouraged or tolerated in a country such as Paraguay, with a normal institutional government, a legitimate Constitution, a representatives government backed by the people's votes and a plurality of parties, and Armed Forces that have been brought up in a staunch, moral tradition. Gangs, groups, or commandos are unthinkable in a country where intimidating and reactionary repressive police methods have been eradicated and replaced by effective techniques of safeguarding the peace and security of people, and preventing crimes, where politics means debate for the sole purpose of achieving the well-being of the people; and where no "para-partisan," extra-partisan, or anti-partisan groups have been allowed to befoul the atmosphere; in a country where anarchy, insecurity, and half a century of improvisations by unstable governments and subversion have been overcome. Allowing such groups would mean reverting to a state of aggression and barbarism, and violation of laws and authorities legally established to protect rights and to punish all violations of law, as should be done in any civilized society, even more so in a democracy that accepts regulations, principles of authority, and rights counterbalanced by duties as the true bases of political and social stability.

We are able to make these statements in categorial support for the law and the institutions during the period of the Colorado government of General Stroessner because political adventurism and subversive audacity have been eradicated and replaced by public awareness as the first safeguard for order, and by a strong unity forged in peace and security security, **urging** us to defend the objectives that have been achieved and to consolidate these objectives in an atomosphere of cooperation and brotherhood.

Of course there are social misfits afflicted with unhealthy passions, exaggerated ambitions, and useless rancor, and there are also those news merchants who, verging on scandal or agitation, speculate with the morbid sensationalism that is generated by focusing on the repressed violence and impotent subversion that those misfits represent. Nevertheless, it is always better in all cases to enforce the law so that antisocial individual, whatever their nature, are prevented from resorting to the pretext that repressive measures have been used against them. Moreover, punishments enforced by law can be more severe and effective, in addition to being unappealably legal.

In times of rebellion as in 1947, when Febreristo, liberals, and communists formed an alliance to wage a civil war, the response of the government, the Colorado Party, and its popular masses will, naturally, be the same as it was at that time. But that period is long past, and the nation has progressed; there is a new mentality, new generations have come of age, and there has been advancement in all sectors. So we now loathe vestiges of the past which are resuscitated to agitate and provoke, through all possible means, the reaction of intended victims who are the target of aggression, slander, and provocations. Those reactions may then be used as an excuse to raise charges of persecution by the repressive "apparatus." But the Colorados, the constitutional government of President Stroessner or the Colorado Party, which represents the will of the country's democratic majority, will not fall into the trap. The illegal opposition and their official and unofficial spokesmen will have to admit that the entire masquerade is over; democracy will not be defeated, and no action outside the law will be staged in Paraguay. This means that democracy and law will be defended in keeping with their appropriate principles, doctrines, and rules.

BRIEFS

LOAN AGREEMENT -- Yesterday A 10 million-mark agreement was signed with the FRG Institute for Reconstruction Loans. The funds will be earmarked for health programs in the departments of Itapua, Misiones, and Neembucu over the next 4 years. The agreement was signed by Public Health Minister Adan Godoy Jimenez; Hernan Lingnau, member of the institute's board of directors and Dr Hans Peter Neuhoff. [Summary] [Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 6 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER NOTES SPLIT IN SHINING PATH

PY271542 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Today Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca said that a division within the subversive Shining Path group is evidenced by the appearance of white flags and Shining Path leaflets in some parts of the Andean region. Interior Minister Percovich Roca made statements to the press at the end of an Interior Ministry meeting:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] A group of people have been murdered 250 km from Lima. Does this mean that reports about a Shining Path truce are doubtful?

[Percovich] We maintain that the white flags and the leaflets that have been found do not indicate a truce, but rather a division within Shining Path. We believe that a sector of the Shining Path is disgusted with so much violence and is aware that violence is an erroneous path, as opposed to the other sector which persists in this form of struggle. What I find positive, at least for the present, is that there is obviously a difference in opinions and stances within Shining Path.

[Reporter] Has this division been reported by the intelligence services or is it mere speculation?

[Percovich] No, it is a conclusion based on the latest incidents, but as yet there is nothing certain. [end recording]

18 BODIES FOUND, 10 EXTREMISTS REPORTEDLY KILLED

PY271410 Paris AFP in Spanish 1446 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Lima, 26 Dec (AFP) -- Reliable police sources have reported that 18 bodies have been found at Apuccasa in the Ayacucho district of Soccos on the Libertadores Highway which links Lima with Ayacucho.

Unofficial reports have stated that the corpses were found in the drainage pipes of the highway at kilometer 385, about 30 km from the city of Ayacucho. The victims, some of whom seem to have died a few days ago, have not yet been identified and will be taken to Ayacucho Hospital for autopsy.

Moreover, in the city of Ayacucho, where the 15-month-long curfew had been lifted on Christmas Eve and will be enforced again today, the people were surprised yesterday, Sunday, to find that red flags of the Shining Path extremist group had been hoisted on the outskirts of the city.

Although the political-military command of the emergency zone has not mentioned any incident, unofficial sources have indicated that in San Martin, Ayacucho Department, 10 extremists died during a confrontation with police forces.

Additional Havana Report

PA270230 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The bodies of 18 more people murdered in Peru were found near Apuccasa, Ayacucho Department, which last year was declared an emergency zone under the control of a political-military command. The 18 bodies were discovered in a ditch beside Los Libertadores Highway, in the same Peruvian district where 35 bodies were found in mid-November. According to reports, these 35 people were killed by police.

Meanwhile, the Association of Peruvian Psychologists expressed its deep concern over the constant human rights violations in that country, especially in Ayacucho Department.

For its part, the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers has asked President Fernando Belaunde Terry to grant a broad political amnesty to the peasants, professor, students, and workers detained for allegedly committing terrorist crimes.

According to last-minute reports, the 8,000 workers of PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] have continued their 3-day-old indefinite strike in demand of wage increases, and labor conflicts have continued in various other sectors.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADORS -- Teruo Kosugi, the new Japanese ambassador to Peru, presented his credentials to President Fernando Belaunde Terry on 14 December. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p A 4 PY] Walter Montenegro, the new Bolivian ambassador to Peru, has presented his credentials to President Fernando Belaunde Terry. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p A 4 PY]

AMBASSADORS RATIFIED -- The Senate ratified last night the appointments of five Peruvian ambassadors. They are Enrique Arevalo Alvarado Zanartu to Paraguay, Pablo Moran Val to Hungary, Jaime Cacho Souza Castro to Bolivia, Jaime Castro Mendevil to Romania, and Jose Coz Botteri to Bulgaria. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 16 Dec 83 p A 4 PY] Yesterday the Senate ratified the appointments of Jorge Chavez Soto and Carlos Gonzalez Ugarte as Peruvian plenipotentiary ambassadors to South Korea and New Zealand, respectively. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p A 4 PY]

POLICE PROMOTIONS -- Yesterday the Senate ratified the promotions of PIP [Peruvian Investigative Police] Generals Manuel Alejandro Bazul Torero and Elias Alberto Suarez Caballero to lieutenant general. The Senate also ratified the promotions of the following PIP colonels to the rank of general: Justo Leoncio Apaza Ramos, Cesar Alberto Menacho Luna, Jesus Bendezu Antay, Gustavo E. Peralta Sanchez, Alfredo E. Vergara Cordova, Javier Atilano Tello Lopez, Guillermo Castillo Rivadeneyra, Pablo Luzgardo Rivera Portal, Fernando Reyes Roca, Tomas Wilson Granados, Eduardo Palomino Morales, and Oscar Vivas Gutarra. The Republican Guard colonels promoted to the rank of general are: Oscar Takey Perez, Raul Jares Cago, Felix Panta Delgado, Segundo Ramos Cayla, Victor Garcia Leyth, and Faber Cabello Caceres. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Dec 83 p A 4 PY]

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER ECONOMIC DATA -- The National Statistics Institute, INE, has reported that the gross domestic product [GDP] dropped by 11.8 percent between January-September. The INE also reported that during this period the inflation rate reached 96.3 percent and the Peruvian currency devaluation totalled 106.2 percent. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 26 Nov 83 p 25 PY]

RECOGNIZED PARTIES TO REQUEST RELEASE OF POZZOLO

PY280144 Paris AFP in Spanish 1919 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Dec (AFP) -- The three recognized Uruguayan parties (the Blanco or National Party, the Colorado Party, and the Civic Union) decided to request the release of former congressman and current Colorado convention delegate Luis Pozzolo, detained and brought before a military court over the weekend.

The decision was announced at the end of the deliberations of the executive committees of the three parties, which harshly criticized the authorities.

Pozzolo was charged with publicly slandering the Armed Forces in a speech he delivered at his party's convention. He said that he was not willing to grant pardon either to the rascals that murdered, stole, and killed before 1971 (the Tupamaro guerrillas), or to the rascals that have murdered, stolen, and usurped power since 1973.

The Colorado Party executive committee condemned the detention and the decision to bring Pozzolo before a military court, which the committee regarded as unqualified for trying civilians, particularly when they face charges for exercising their legitimate political rights. The committee also claimed that military courts offer no guarantees because they are subordinated to the government.

The executive board of the Blanco Party, the traditional Colorado Party opponent, today voiced its solidarity with Pozzolo and its support for the Colorado Party request that he be released immediately.

The Blanco Party also pointed out that military courts are not qualified to try civilians, and that in the case of party leaders, the action amounts, on the one hand, to disregarding the rights that the people have granted to them and, on the other hand, to curtailing the freedom of parties.

The Blanco executive board condemned the government's decision to reiterate the measures anticipated by a decree issued on 2 August banning political activities and the dissemination of reports on political events by the media. The Blanco Party also criticized the censorship that has been imposed on weeklies since last week, and the preventive suspension of "CX-30 La Radio," a measure that came into effect on 17 December.

The party also blamed the existing situation of confrontation on the government, and warned of the possible consequences.

The Blanco Party executive board concluded by pledging its support for and cooperation with a commission that the Colorado Party formed last Monday to seek the release of Pozzolo. The commission is composed of eight prominent Colorado Party leaders.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Diplomatic sources confirmed press reports today that Dr Walter Ravenna will be the new Uruguayan ambassador to the United States, and Dr Mateo Marquez the new Uruguayan ambassador to Argentina. Dr Ravenna will replace Alejandro Vegh Villegas, who has been appointed economy and finance minister. [Excerpt] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 5 Dec 83 p 9 PY]

BUSINESS LEADER ON U.S. EFFORT TO BOYCOTT STEEL

PA240409 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 9

[By Francisco Reynoso]

[Text] The U.S. companies that are trying to boycott Mexican iron and steel exports have intensified their efforts to the point that they are threatening importers in an effort to force them to cancel orders, and thus to impose insurmountable conditions on our national producers.

In charging this, Gustavo S. Cortes, president of the National Chamber of the Iron and Steel Industry [Camara Nacional de la Industria del Hierro y del Acero], said that this boycott attempt is becoming dangerous to Mexico because it is gaining strength daily and is beginning to have serious consequences. Cortes stressed that many U.S. customers have cancelled important orders for steel and steel byproducts from Mexican companies, while other customers are requiring guarantees for their purchases of iron and steel products, contemplating the possible implementation of compensatory tariffs.

The business leader added that in the past few weeks stricter measures have been observed in transactions handled through U.S. customs authorities. The dismay of Mexican industrial exporters, which has become noticeable lately, is an obvious result of this.

EDITORIAL VIEWS PEMEX' FUTURE WITH OPTIMISM

PA240206 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Pemex Reborn"]

[Text] The purpose of a press conference held by the general director of Pemex [Mario Ramon Beteta], was to note some of the firm's prospects for next year. The outstanding feature was the 1984 estimated income figure, which will be in the range of 3 trillion pesos, three times the 1982 income. It is true that the equivalent amount in dollars will depend on the exchange rate, but extraordinary progress in operational tasks has been observed nevertheless, the result of an administrative and technical purge that allows a better return for every peso invested.

Pemex' 1984 budget has been estimated at 1.162 trillion pesos, just over half of its estimated income. A net profit for the oil industry and for the nation is therefore to be expected.

One particularly good piece of news as the year comes to an end is that the firm will have paid off $1.8 billion of the $20 billion debt inherited from past administrations. A reduction of almost 10 percent in only a year offers real hope that the weight of interest payments will be lifted from Mexico's most important industry.

A new mood can be seen in Pemex, particularly in regard to its solidarity with the country's interests. Unfortunately, there is still enormous corruption in the unions, a fact of which everyone is well aware. Therefore, it is already foreseen that, unless the unions are purged of their bad leaders, they will continue to drain resources that should go toward industry improvement, the country's finances, its public services, and the general development of the nation, as well as the legitimate interests of the workers.

PAREDES-SAEZ ELECTORAL PLATFORM OUTLINED

PA271806 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Dec 83, p A-9

[Capitalized passages as published]

[Text] We, the undersigned, POPULAR NATIONALIST PARTY [PNP] President Olimpo Saez, authorized by the party's organizations, and General Ruben Dario Paredes, who enjoys ample support from independent political sectors, hereby announce that we have reached the following political electoral agreement:

1. Ruben D. Paredes and Olimpo Saez, together with their respective groups, have agreed to form a presidential slate as an INDEPENDENT alternative to the political sectors known as GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION, in order to create A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, A JUST SOCIETY, AND A NEW HOMELAND in Panama.

2. The presidential slate for the May 1984 elections consisting of Paredes and Saez will propose the solution of national problems, primarily along the following lines: 1) the national economic crisis; 2) a total reorganization of public administration; 3) a state policy that encompasses greater production incentives and rationalization of the overwhelming national debt, which has been entered into without limit; 4) the reduction of unemployment through the permanent and effective creation of jobs; 5) balanced labor-management relations, serving as a firm basis for our national wealth; 6) a reexamination of the objectives of public education at the kindergarten, primary, secondary, and university levels, to stop the current critical disaster in education; 7) an active program to construct inexpensive housing that can be purchased on reasonable terms; 8) the reestablishment of a profitable agricultural and livestock production, with technical and financial assistance from the state; 9) the reform of the Social Security Institute's legal status to guarantee the interest and rights of the beneficiaries by having a majority of employers and workers on the institute's board of directors with proportional state representation; 10) creation of effective and extended public health programs to prevent and cure diseases; 11) the rectification of Panama's foreign policy to eliminate its contradictions, its dangerous risks, and its utopian frustrations; 12) a reaffirmation of the struggle for Panama's control of the canal, as well as the efficient improvement, for the country's benefit, of recovered areas and goods; 13) the strengthening of Panamanian democracy and a permanent people's government; 14) amendment of the National Defense Forces Law to make the armed institution worthy and to guarantee respect for the promotion roster, thus benefiting all of its members so that they remain in their respective posts as military men in accordance with the Constitution and democracy, without intervening in national politics and public affairs; and 15) effective government action to overcome all physical and moral problems from which the Panamanian people, both urban and rural, suffer today.

3. This agreement on a political and electoral stance is based on the premise that A NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING among all of the Republic's economic, political, and social forces is the only possible solution to the general large-scale crisis that is hampering the country's development. We hereby present this agreement to the public, to the responsible sectors of the Panamanian people, making no distinctions whatever and including our vigorous youth, the national government's honest and patriotic sectors, and both the General Staff and rank and file of our armed forces, as this armed force should maintain the strictest neutrality in the coming elections.

This political and electoral agreement, which constitutes a THIRD INDEPENDENT POLITICAL FORCE, is open to any person, group, or political party who is willing to join us in the electoral battle in May and June 1984 to save the Panamanian homeland, outside of the sectarian orders of GOVERNMENT and OPPOSITION.

Panama, 22 December 1983.

Signed: Olimpo Saez and Gen Ruben D. Paredes

PAPO UNITY PACT, ALLIANCE REPORTS 'INACCURATE'

PA241435 Panama City YA in Spanish 24 Dec 83 p 1

[Statement issued by Teodocio Bernal, secretary of press and propaganda of the Peoples Action Party, PAPO, in Panama City on 23 December 1983]

[Text] In yesterday's issue of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, a report was published that PAPO had reached a unity agreement with the Authentic Panamenist Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], the Liberal Party, and the Christian Democratic Party.

In addition, the newspaper YA today reported that PAPO President Carlos Ivan Zuniga is holding talks on an alliance with Dr Jose Renan Esquivel, presidential candidate of the Revolutionary Party of the Workers.

The Secretariat of Press and Propaganda wants to explain that both reports are inaccurate.

BRIEFS

1984 BUDGET FIGURES -- This morning the cabinet council approved the 1984 national budget, which totals $2,586,000,000 for the entire public sector, that is, the central government and the decentralized institutions. This sum represents a $54 million increase over the 1983 budget. Of the total 1984 budget, $512 million will be used for investments in the agricultural, transport, health, educational, and other sectors. [Summary] [Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Dec 83 PA]

STATE PROJECTS CABINET -- A "top-level cabinet" for the execution of state projects was sworn in yesterday at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy, for the purpose of coordinating with the state institutions all projects programmed within the framework of an effective control that will guarantee their prompt realization. The new cabinet includes the minsiters of planning and economic policy, public works, and housing; the general manager of the National Bank of Panama; the comptroller general; the minister of the presidency; the directors of IRHE (Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification), INTEL (National Telecommunications Institute), and IDAAN (National Water and Sanitation Institute); the director of the National Port Authority Office; the mayor of Panama City; and the executive director of CODECO (Commission for the Development of Colon). [Summary] [Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Dec 83 pp A 1, A 16 PA]

EL SALVADOR

PPS CALLS ASSEMBLY ACTION UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PA280142 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Dec 83 pp 3, 38

[Excerpts] There will be a crisis in the Constituent Assembly because there is no other alternative in sight, and because the election of the current board of directors will not be accepted. While this situation exists, we will not attend any meetings that may be called. This is what Francisco Quinonez Avila, secretary general of the Salvadoran Popular Party (PPS), said to LA PRENSA GRAFICA, adding that the election "is the first case of unconstitutionality to be observed in the Legislative Assembly."

For the time being, Quinonez Avila added, our party will not attend any meetings. (Other parties will follow this same line, according to what they have said.) This will generate a crisis, which will be the only way to create a feasible solution to the "impasse" that has emerged.

COMMUNIQUE FROM FPL GROUP OCCUPYING RADIO SONORA

PA272104 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Recorded communique transmitted by the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front of the People's Liberation Forces, FPL, during a takeover of Radio Cadena Sonora in San Salvador, entitled: "An End of Year Greeting"]

[Text] We salute our heroic people and all sister peoples in the socialist camp.

In view of the current situation within our organization and the ill-intentioned and biased maneuvers that have been carried out publicly, primarily by our class enemies, we find ourselves forced to offer some clarifications of the events of April 1983, when we lost our foremost leader, and to state our position on the Salvador Cayetano Carpio Revolutionary Workers' Movement as well as the reason for our decision to disown the current leadership of the FPL.

The FPL was born on 1 April 1970 as a group of brave revolutionaries led by Companero Salvador Cayetano Carpio, Commander Marcial, a genuine representative of the Salvadoran patriots who, [words indistinct] summoning his forces and revolutionary abilities, undertook the difficult work of providing the Salvadoran people with an authentic political-military, Marxist-Leninist vanguard to lead them in the struggle to destroy capitalism and to establish socialism through the strategy of a prolonged people's war.

Subsequently, on the basis of the development attained by our organization and the other sister organizations as whole, the struggle moved forward within a framework of economic, political, and military attrition of the infrastructure of the capitalist regime, which is dependent on Yankee imperialism. Despite this [words indistinct], in late 1980, and as a result of the petit bourgeois composition of the FPL leadership, it sank into a process of deterioration in its fundamental concepts and principles, which are deciding (?factors) in achieving major advances.

The FPL leadership made strategic moves without consulting our rank and file, such as those on dialogue and negotiation, destruction of the structures of (?the parties), and other steps. This resulted in deterioration and the loss of democratic (?thought) and internal democracy, which [words indistinct] replacement of the Central Command of the Revolutionary Council by the Political Commission. This led to a high degree of militarization within the FPL. No meeting of the Revolutionary Council took place for 3 consecutive years.

The FPL leadership [words indistinct] ability to lead the mass movement, resulting from the [word indistinct] classist action of the war, which had serious consequences for the heroic mass movement.

The foregoing events have a deviation from the correct strategic line as a political backdrop, straying from our people's true revolutionary objectives. This was reflected when the FPL leadership proposed a policy of dialogue and negotiation that, in its (?hierarchical) contents, entails a barefaced conciliation with the bourgeoisie as [word indistinct] at the Seventh Revolutionary Council. This was primarily done in an effort to offer Yankee imperialism an acceptable option for stopping war, the FPL leadership not caring at this juncture [words indistinct] the role that has been played by the bourgeoisie and its repressive apparatus, as directly responsible for the exploitation, poverty, and massacres of our people.

On the basis of this dialogue and negotiation they are trying to establish a government of broad participation, (?sharing it) with the previously mentioned murderous bourgeoisie.

In view of these developments [words indistinct], which puts the FPL on a road leading further and further from their true objectives. (?It was at this time) that Companero Marcial was constantly critical of this deviation in the (?policy) of this leadership [words indistinct].

The context for all of these developments were the events in April and the fall of our foremost leaders. All of us FPL members expect, until the Seventh Revolutionary Council is held [words indistinct], a truthful and cogent report on these developments that would allow a clarification of these events. [Passage indistinct] of those who are trying to take advantage of the developments to deal a final blow to the correct position that serves as a foundation for our organization's principles and doctrine.

For this reason, [words indistinct] trail of those involved in the events of April. Therefore, we feel that a thorough and [word indistinct] investigation of these events must be carried out.

[Passage indistinct] and we therefore adopt the [words indistinct] determination (?of honor) and responsibility to categorically disown the current FPL leadership because of the cowardly [words indistinct] of the proletariat [words indistinct].

For this reason, the leadership [words indistinct] responsible handling of the [passage indistinct] showing a low revolutionary moral content and not caring about the handling that our class enemy is giving to these problems. We stress to our people and to our entire dear FPL rank and file that we do not believe in solving our problems violently; our weapons will only be aimed at the heart of our people's class enemies, Yankee imperialism, the bourgeoisie, and its repressive apparatus.

The Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front reiterates to our people, to the FPL rank and file, and to the entire world that:

1. We will never resign from our dear FPL. We have always signed and will continue to sign documents as the FPL.

2. We pledge before the people and the FPL rank and file that we will resume the true revolutionary principles with which the FPL was born.

3. We will struggle for the establishment of a revolutionary democratic government that will guarantee the economy of the proletariat (?and their) main ally, the peasantry, and of the other sectors of the people, which are the only ones capable of (?cementing) the foundations of socialism.

4. It is necessary to strengthen revolutionary unity in order to move ahead with the revolutionary process and to seize power through a constant and (?watchful) development alongside the other sister organizations within the FMLN.

5. The process of dialogue and negotiation can be carried forward, always provided that it does not imply concessions on our principles or capitulation in terms of the inalienable interests of the proletariat and of our entire people.

6. We have assessed the military levels that have been attained thus far through the strategy of a prolonged people's war, and it is only by [word indistinct] combining the fundamental means of political and military struggle that we will be able to achieve definitive victory and the fundamental right (?to wage an armed struggle).

7. We recognize the Soviet Union as the vanguard of the socialist camp and as a people who are making the utmost effort to safeguard world peace. We also recognize the [words indistinct] in the socialist camp, and voice our solidarity with the defense of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, as well as with the defense of the Vietnamese revolution. We condemn the invasion of Grenada and the criminal attack by Yankee imperialism, in complicity with the Israeli Government, on the peoples of the Middle East.

Moreover, an attempt has been made to link our position on disowning the FPL leadership with the existence of a new organization called the Salvador Cayetano Carpio Revolutionary Workers' Movement, as stated in the latest communique issued by the FPL Political Commission, to confuse and [words indistinct] before the people and FPL rank and file about the true origin of our political positions, based on a resumption of the revolutionary principles for which the FPL [words indistinct].

We appeal to the entire FPL rank and file to redouble their efforts to defeat the class enemy, to build our FPL Party, and to develop the People's Liberation Armed Forces, the People's Liberation Militias, and the mass movement, maintaining a critical attitude in order to enforce respect for the genuine interests of the proletariat and to ensure that it prevails within our organization, not allowing any further deviations from our strategic line to develop within our organization.

We note that all of us have the duty and obligation to contribute to the unification of the FPL and to subordinate ourselves to a healthy and just leadership, loyal to the interests of the proletariat, based on the correct strategic line for which our dear FPL was born.

We stand against the electoral farce, which seeks to legalize the imperialist and bourgeois plans, which in turn seek to legalize Yankee intervention, exploitation, hunger, pauperism, and the criminal bombings of defenseless towns.

We call on the people to (?undertake), as of now, an active boycott of the elections through every political and military means available.

Long live all peoples struggling for their liberation! Long live the strategy of a prolonged peoples war!

In the face of imperialist aggression, our people (?are enlisting)!

Let's struggle for a revolutionary democratic government! In the face of the electoral farce, a people's revolution! Revolution or death! An armed people will win!

[Signed] Political Directorate of the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Front of the FPL

FIRST BRIGADE COMMANDER FLORES INTERVIEWED

PAZ30419 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Report on interview with Colonel Jaime Ernesto Flores, commander of the Salvadoran Army's 1st Brigade, stationed at the San Carlos Barracks, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We asked Colonel Jaime Ernesto Flores what he thought of his transfer to the San Carlos Barracks, to which he responded:

[Flores] "It is my desire to work for the country's peace, wherever we are sent. I believe that the work is the same everywhere. The Armed Forces' policy is the same everywhere: We are working to achieve peace in the country, to democratize it, to help it to advance, and to defend the human rights of all of its citizens. Naturally, we all share the desire to secure peace."

[Reporter] We asked him if the work at San Carlos Barracks is different from that which he carried out at the 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, to which he said:

[Flores] "Not in itself. You must recall that it, too, involves areas of conflict. It covers the areas of Guazapa, Suchitoto, and Tenancingo, where we've had certain problems. The work is the same everywhere, although its magnitude is a bit more [words indistinct]."

[Reporter] He was asked about a report disseminated in our country indicating that the U.S. Government has asked the Salvadoran Government to discharge certain individuals who have ties with the death squads, and that U.S. aid to our country depends upon this. To this Flores replied:

[Flores] "I couldn't say anything about that. Our government has already replied to this. The president responded to this issue in the newspapers yesterday. I couldn't say anything more. Human rights have been mentioned, but we have been intent on achieving respect for human rights for some time now. We have also taken steps to establish peace and democracy in the country. We've done this together with other Armed Forces leaders, in order to achieve peace."

[Reporter] Col Flores also discussed the most recent changes within the Salvadoran Armed Forces:

[Flores] "I could tell you that, as a military officer, I view this change as normal. It is up to the Armed Forces Command to make changes among its commanders. Naturally, [words indistinct]. I cannot specifically tell you if, by sending me here, they are going to [words indistinct] something, or if by sending Monterrosa [words indistinct]. All I can tell you is that all of the commanders are involved in the same kind of work, which is to try to achieve peace for the country."

[Reporter] Were the Army's tactics altered with these changes? It is said that Colonel Monterrosa is constantly to be found with his troops, fighting with them. It is said that Colonel Cruz is doing the same, as is the head of the general staff.

[Flores] "This is an irregular war. Guerrilla warfare, wherever it takes place, is always irregular. Plans are changed from one day to the next. This is natural in a war such as ours."

We feel that with the changes made by the High Command, more energy and enthusiasm have been instilled in the Armed Forces. The fact that Col Monterrosa is with his troops is great. However, this doesn't mean that [words indistinct] troops. No, it is the current system. At this time, it is necessary for the colonel to be with his troops. The fact that [words indistinct]."

[Reporter] Guerrilla spokesmen have said that this new tactic is an effort to boost the Army's morale; they reported that the Armed Forces were demoralized.

[Flores] "This isn't true. I can answer for my former unit, the 3d Brigade. I cannot recall a single moment when we lost our morale. The same goes for this unit. Thus, I don't think this is true. Every new commmander starts with great enthusiasm and with a desire to be original and to improve things, to make them better than they were under the previous commander. This is normal."

[Reporter] Colonel, you are in charge of an area experiencing great conflict, particularly Guazapa Hill and such sectors as Suchitoto. Will you change the tactics with which these people are fought? Are new operations already underway?

[Flores] "Yes, this is true. New? Well, everything is new. Procedures have been changed in an effort to increase efficiency. We just returned yesterday from an operation in the north. Last week, we were in Tenancingo, Tejutepeque, and Cinquera. This week we'll be going to another operation, the location of which, of course, I can't disclose to you. We don't supply that kind of information until we return, but we are working. When you speak of a new operation, we are not thinking of an end-of-year vacation. We are thinking of work, even on 24 December and 31 December, when everyone else is taking a holiday."

[Reporter] What are the results of the operation just completed by the First Brigade?

[Flores] "The operation we just concluded was carried out with the 4th Infantry Brigade of El Paraiso. It covered Agua Caliente, Nueva Concepcion, part of El Paisnal, part of Aguilares, and part of Tacachico. The result can be considered positive, because we were able to undertake a general search. We found some [words indistinct] and camps. There were no intense clashes, but the operation was positive, as there are no more guerrillas in that area."

FPL COMMANDER JEREMIAS REPORTEDLY DIES IN CLASH

PA241320 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA 23 Dec 83 pp 2, 42

[Text] Commander Jeremias, comrade-in-arms of Jose Antonio Morales Carbonell, died the day before yesterday in a clash near El Volcancillo, Chalatenango Department, the Armed Forces reported yesterday.

An Army spokesman said that Commander Jeremias died when he and many terrorists tried to ambush a 4th Infantry Brigade patrol in the vicinity of El Volcancillo, northern Chalatenango Department, near Comalapa municipality. Many subversives managed to escape -- some of them seriously wounded. Others, supposedly dead, were removed by their comrades. The 4th Brigade reported no casualties.

An M-16 rifle, two clips for the same rifle, one canteen, and other materiel were seized from Commander Jeremias. He belonged to the FPL and was constantly described as one of Morales Carbonell's closest comrades.

A terrorist camp is believed to be located near this area, because there were constant reports that Commander Marcial was seen there. It supposedly serves as a refuge for Morales Carbonell, who is also said to have been seen in this area of Chalatenango Department, which has been combed several times, but with negative results.

MILITARY CLAIMS 200 GUERRILLAS KILLED

PA261633 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1427 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Dec (DPA) -- Battalion Commander Major Luis Mario Turcios told the world press today that at least 200 guerrillas had been killed in the last 10 days, but he refused to state the Army's casualties.

Parachute battalion troops advanced on Ciudad Barrios in San Miguel Department 110 km from San Salvador, relying on intelligence reports that guerrillas were concentrated in the area.

Turcios also said that his units discovered the common graves of more than 50 guerrillas. Guerrillas remove their dead and bury them at secret sites, rarely revealing their losses over the broadcasts of Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti.

Turcios added that his unit could stay in the field as long as necessary to pursue the guerrillas wherever they appear because of its rapid deployment ability and the good support it receives.

Further on Deaths

PA272307 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Dec 83 pp 2, 19

[Text] At least 200 extremists were killed in intense clashes in the past week in the northeastern part of the country, according to responsible sources. The sources state that yesterday there were strong clashes in Morazan, as well as in San Miguel in the eastern part of the country. Some 2,000 military troops have carried out a counteroffensive in the region since last week. The Army has recovered several towns that were held by the guerrillas, as well as capturing two camps and one hospital belonging to the subversives. The sources add that the troops found 30 guerrilla bodies in a common grave in San Luis de la Reina, San Miguel. According to the report, all of the bodies had been shot.

It was reported that nine terrorists were killed in several clashes with soldiers in the towns of Delicias de Concepcion, Meanguera, and Osicala. The reports state that a total of some 200 guerrillas have been killed in the past week in clashes in San Miguel and Morazan.

Our sources state that 26 soldiers were killed in the clashes, thus denying extremist reports that 200 soldiers had been killed.

Meanwhile, military sources said that a group of terrorists abandoned a bomb in the La Lucha region in La Paz, which exploded while five children played with it, killing them all. The children were between 7 and 15. The incident took place on 23 December. The victims were brothers Victor Manuel, Andres David, Humberto Alfredo, and Tomas de Jesus Suarez (7, 9, 13, and 15), and Armando Ramirez Moreira, 14. They had been tending cattle.

It has also been reported that seven guerrillas were killed in armed clashes that took place on 24 December in Morazan. The bodies were found by military patrols inspecting the area after the clashes. The Army reported no casualties.

ARMY, SUBVERSIVES CLASH IN SAN JOSE GUAYABAL

PA240422 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Dec 83 pp 2, 88

[Text] Military sources have reported that heavy clashes have taken place since early yesterday morning between subversive contingents and Army troops for control of San Jose Guayabal. According to the reports, the action began at about 0200 when a number of terrorists, apparently from Guazapa Hill, raided the town. The subversives outnumbered and outfought the National Guardsmen stationed there. The sources said that, after seizing San Jose Guayabal, the extremist hordes tried to fortify themselves in the town, which has been virtually uninhabited since it became the target of attacks by the subversives some time ago.

Operations to dislodge the subversives began at 0700 with the arrival in San Jose Guayabal and its outskirts of reinforcements from the 1st Infantry Brigade and other Armed Forces units, which counterattacked the terrorist positions with light artillery fire to weaken them, and then attacked with troops trained for this sort of operation.

Questioned sources said that they could give no details on casualties, military supplies seized, or other information since no reports had been received from the government forces, but they indicated that preliminary data are expected this afternoon and evening.

RADIO VENCEREMOS AIRS FLMN CENTRAL FRONT REPORT

PA231315 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] This is a report from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front:

On Thursday, 22 December, FMLN forces attacked enemy positions in the village of El Guayabal, only a few kilometers from San Salvador.

The fighting began at 0200, and as of 0945 several fortified positions had been taken. The enemy held only one position. We inflicted several deaths on the enemy forces, captured seven soldiers from the 5th Military Detachment, and wounded several soldiers who were given medical care. Our forces also seized seven weapons and other war supplies from the dictatorship.

Enemy reinforcements arrived along the new highway linking Suchitoto to San Martin and Oratorio, along the northern trunk highway, and around the Guazapa and Ramirez canton areas, where the clashes have been taking place.

Today the enemy also carried out heavy bombing of the village of El Guayabal.

While the enemy, through the Armed Forces Pretext [as heard] Committee, continues announcing large operations against the FMLN, in eastern El Salvador the heroic fighters of Guazapa Hill stage attacks near enemy trenches, supporting the other war fronts with their actions, invalidating the enemy's general communique, and ridiculing COPREFA [Armed Forces Press Committee], which is trying to lift the morale of its battered troops with propaganda.

We will continue to report details of this victory of our revolutionary forces in the Modesto Ramirez Central Front. In El Guayabal, two A-37 planes, two O-2 light aircraft, and one helicopter armed with artillery have been carrying out indiscriminate bombing. This report was sent from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front by Commander Misael Gallardo.

FMLN CLAIMS ARMY OPERATION IN MORAZAN DEFEATED

PA271620 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Domingo Monterrosa's operation in northern Morazan Department has failed! Our revolutionary army is striking the rearguard of the enemy's operation. Here is a report on the fighting on the Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Front:

Over 5,000 troops from the Arce, Belloso, Airborne, San Miguel's Cazadores, and San Francisco Gotera's Morazan battalions along with elite units from the repressive organizations and other units, suffered a crushing defeat in the most recent operation launched by the dictatorship against the northwest region of Morazan Department.

Enemy units commanded by Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, the war criminal, advanced in three directions: from Osicala, south of the Tolora River, to Meanguera, Jocoaitique, and Perquin; from Carolina in northern San Miguel Department to Torola in northern Morazan Department; and the Arce Battalion, whose members were flown to the northern San Fernando region by helicopter, advanced from San Fernando to Torola. This operation was carefully planned, and included the employment of tactics that were recommended by Yankee advisers.

On 21 December, enemy troops crossed the Torola River and began their operation in northern Morazan Department. It is very important to note that the enemy troops, with the exception of the Belloso Battalion, had already been seriously worn out in heavy fighting on Cerro Cacahuatique.

Thus, on 21 December the first clashes between the enemy forces and our units took place. The enemy used more than 5,000 troops in this fighting in northern Morazan Department, supported by heavy bombing and artillery shelling.

Our revolutionary units delayed the enemy's advance to Osicala, while encouraging the advance of enemy units to Torola.

The enemy took the bait. Meanwhile, battalions belonging to the Commander Lilian Mercedes Letona northern group of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade [BRAZ] positioned in northern San Miguel Department, were preparing to strike the rearguard of the enemy's operation.

On 22 December, our forces attacked Ciudad Barrios, in the rearguard of the dictator's operation. As we have already reported, in this fighting, the enemy again used helicopter airborne troops, while also sending other reinforcements: the Cazadores of Usulutan.

As a result of the enemy's tactic of deploying airborne troops, five enemy helicopters were damaged and one pilot was killed. Thus, the new tactic was a complete disaster.

On the same day, 22 December, the Cazadores and Airborne battalions, which were advancing to Torola, were told to leave Morazan Department and to immediately head for northern San Miguel Department.

Thus, on 22 December, BRAZ units took the initiative in the operation that was so carefully planned by Col Monterrosa, other officers, and the Yankee advisers. On that day, the enemy's plans began to crumble. Thereafter, the dictatorship's special battalions began to dance to the tune played by the BRAZ.

As a result of the blow dealt to the enemy's rearguard, our units seized 40 G-3 rifles. We confirm the total annihilation of 31 soldiers.

We also took 23 prisoners of war, 7 of whom were released because they were wounded. We damaged five helicopters and we estimate that several dozen enemy troops were wounded. These results were all achieved as of 22 December.

Meanwhile, in northwest Morazan Department, the enemy's operation against our rearguard collapsed completely. It was the BRAZ that hit the enemy's rearguard.

The troops who entered on 21 December, including the Arce Battalion, which was airlifted to the area, were forced to hastily abandon northern Morazan Department on foot on 23 December. Menawhile, the situation became totally confused for the enemy in northern San Miguel Department.

On 23 December, the fat pigs [cuinos] left Morazan Department. Thus, in less than 48 hours, they had to rush out of Morazan Department and go to San Miguel Department, where they have continued to sustain many casualties, both dead and wounded.

On 24 December, in Northern San Miguel Department, a battalion from the 3d Infantry Brigade operating in the northeast sustained eight casualties, all wounded. They included Captain Cardona. They were wounded in clashes in Los Laureles, near San Gerardo. On the same day we inflicted nine casualties on Belloso Battalion troops, both dead and wounded. Meanwhile, the Arce Battalion sustained six casualties, dead and wounded, on 24 December.

So, dead and wounded soldiers are the only result of the operations led by Monterrosa in the country's northeast. Spokesmen for the dictatorship have been reiterating the tactic of using airborne troops at the very time when these tactics proved to be a resounding failure. They accomplished absolutely nothing in Morazan, while in northern San Miguel Department we damaged five of their helicopters and killed one of their pilots. The helicopers were forced to drop their troops elsewhere. This is the result of the flamboyant Yankee tactic involving airborne troops. The greatest defeat in these clashes in the country's northeast belongs to archcriminal Col Monterrosa, who tried to strike at our rearguard and received a beating of his own.

What the enemy left behind in the country's northeast was death and destruction among civilians. In Morazan our forces kept the enemy from massacring a great number of civilians. However, enemy bombing and artillery shelling produced a number of victims in northern San Miguel and Morazan Departments.

The operation that Monterrosa, the dummy, so carefully planned in Northern Morazan and San Miguel Departments became a great victory for our revolutionary army!

HAVANA CITES PAPER ON ELECTION PLANS

PA270247 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The Cuban daily TRABAJADORES said today that the new constitution put into effect by the Salvadoran regime seeks to legally execute the desire of the national oligarchy and the U.S. Government to impose a presidential election on that country in March 1984.

In an article entitled "El Salvador, New Diversionist Juggling," the paper stressed that this dirty game further deepens the abyss that exists between the ruling clique, composed of militarymen and big land owners, and the broad working masses, peasants, and the people in general.

According to TRABAJADORES, the major aspirants to the reins of the government and repression are Roberto D'Aubuisson and Jose Napolean Duarte, both ultrarightists with extremely well-known backgrounds, due to their direct responsibility in the various massacres perpetrated against the Salvadoran people.

The Cuban paper stressed that the reason for speeding up the passing of this new constitution is, no doubt, the various setbacks suffered by the government in the face of the Salvadoran revolutionary movement's victorious drive.

HAVANA NOTES BOMB RAID, MASS GRAVE DISCOVERY

FL262046 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1803 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Today the news agency SALPRESS reported that the Salvadoran regime's Air Force bombed several points on Guazapa Volcano for more than 1 hour. The towns of Suchitoto and (Suchitlan) were attacked by Army war planes. The number of victims is not yet known.

During the [word indistinct] hours on Sunday, FMLN squadrons attacked the local military headquarters in Paisnal, 39 km north of the country's capital. It is certain that the Army commander there was killed by rebel gunfire. Meanwhile, in San Miguel Department, where the Army has deployed a powerful but in effective offensive against the insurgents, a common grave was discovered containing more than 30 bodies with bullet wounds.

HAVANA ON ATTACKS, ELECTIONS, BISHOP'S VIEWS

PA262207 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The Salvadoran regime's Air Force has heavily bombed various places on Guazapa Volcano, as well as several villages near the city of Suchitoto and Lake Suchitlan. According to the news reports, it is not yet possible to determine the number of casualties, which may have been many. The regime has justified this criminal action by claiming that it was trying to dislodge the guerrillas from the positions they have been holding in that area for over 1 year. Meanwhile, insurgent squads attacked the military command at El Paisnal in San Salvador. The commander of that Army post was reportedly killed in that action. In San Miguel, the troops have continued their counterinsurgency offensive, but so far they have failed to defeat the guerrillas even once.

This past weekend the right-wing political parties held special conventions to nominate the vice presidential candidates for the March elections. For the Nationalsit Republican Alliance, Hugo Barrera will run with Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, the presidential candidate on that ultrarightist organization's ticket.

Meanwhile, Gregorio Chavez, auxiliary bisop of San Salvador, has charged that over 6,000 Salvadorans died in 1983 due to official repression. According to him, 526 others are missing.

RADIO FARABUNDO MARTI CITED ON 1983 STATISTICS

PA271824 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] A Salvadoran rebel command ocucupied a radio station in San Salvador and broadcast an appeal to all of the country's patriotic forces to strengthen their unity in the struggle against the dictatorship.

Meanwhile, Radio Farabundo Marti reported that the Salvadoran rebels inflicted 6,974 casualties, both dead and wounded, on the Army this year, and took 1,557 prisoners of war. The station added that the FMLN seized 3,393 weapons from the regime, including grenade launchers, rocket launchers, 90-mm cannon, and mortars in 1983.

The source also noted that the rebels damaged 20 Salvadoran Air Force helicopters and 7 combat planes, while one helicopter was downed by the rebels' antiaircraft fire.

Finally, during 1983, the rebels took 106 villages, blew up 23 bridges and 4 trains, occupied 9 radio stations, and carried out 5 big military campaigns, as well as various commando operations.

GUATEMALA

BARRICADA REPORTS URNG GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

PA240440 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] Guatemala City, (CERIGUA) [Centro Exterior de Reportes Informativos de Guatemala] -- Guatemalan guerrilla forces have occupied strategic positions in southern Guatemala and attacked the Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala City with grenades.

The municipalities of Taxisco, San Antonio, Suchitepequez, Chacacao, and Santo Tomas were occupied in coordinated operations staged by members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). These actions took place last week when government troops were attacked in San Antonio, Suchitepequez, and Taxisco.

The guerrillas occupied the hamlet of San Luis in El Peten Department and also controlled part of the highway in Dolores municipality.

Violent fighting took place in the same area on 12, 13, and 14 December, when army troops moving through La Libertad municipality were attacked. The guerrillas recovered weapons and military equipment in this operation. A similar action took place in 13 December in Sibinal, San Marcos Department.

Also on 13 December, an attack was launched with grenades on the Salvadoran regime's diplomatic mission in Guatemala City.

A communique signed by Commander Nicolas Sis of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) declares that this intensive guerrilla activity coincided with the UN condemnation of human rights violations in Guatemala.

U.S. PRIEST ARRESTED, RELEASED BY ARMY

PA231745 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1708 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- U.S. Priest Donald Haren Pokie was captured by the Guatemalan Army at a checkpoint in a village in El Peten Department in northern Guatemala and was later turned over to his church superiors.

A military bulletin reported today that the priest, a member of the Maryknoll order, was arrested yesterday at the checkpost of the Palestina village in La Libertad municipality, El Peten Department, after a U.S. grenade fuse was found in his vehicle.

The bulletin added that after it was learned that Haren was a priest, he was released the same day he was arrested and turned over to the apostolic nunciature in El Peten without being harmed. The Army Information Office reported that the priest was traveling on the highway that leads to Retalhuleo in Yazchillan at the time of his arrest. This is the same area where a guerrilla group ambushed a military convoy on 12 December. At that time, the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) claimed credit for the attack, which resulted in 6 soldiers killed, 14 wounded, and 25 guerrillas killed according to official sources. During the past 5 years, 13 priests of various nationalities have been killed in acts of political violence in Guatemala.

HAVANA REPORTS ON RECENT CLASHES, 'REPRESSION'

Notes Attack on Government Office

PAZ40046 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] A Guatemalan guerrilla group has destroyed a government public relations office. The resulting losses have been estimated at over $500,000. The guerrillas entered the building and forced out the people who were inside, after which they spread gasoline about and detonated an incendiary bomb, which resulted in a huge fire.

It has also been reported that the Guatemalan Rebel Armed Forces inflicted 86 government casualties, including 45 dead, in recent clashes in Peten Department.

Cites Army-EGP Clash

PAZ50157 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Two soldiers died and another was wounded in a clash between government troops and Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] forces in Guatemala's El Quiche Department.

The news agency ENFOPRENSA has reported that the clash took place near the town of Acul, while the entire cabinet and the diplomatic corps accredited to Guatemala were attending the inauguration of a so-called model village.

Another report indicates that ORPA, the Revolutionary Organization of the Peoples in Arms, has claimed responsibility for the occupation and burning of the television studios adjacent to the Guatemalan regime's Public Relations Secretariat, which resulted in losses of over $500,000. In phone calls to the media, ORPA spokesman said that the installations that had been destroyed were being used to prepare a large part of the misinformation and psychological warfare material that the Army uses to mislead the national and international public as to the real situation in Guatemala.

The EGP and ORPA are both members of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, which also includes the Rebel Armed Forces and the leadership cadre of the Guatemalan Labor Party.

Cites Mejia on Human Rights

FLZ71559 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1209 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The Central American News Agency [ACAN], in San Jose, Costa Rica, has reported that 34 people were assassinated in the repression unleashed last week by the Guatemalan Government.

Three children were killed and nine wounded. ACAN also commented on the statements made by Eduardo Meyer, director of the University of San Carlos in Guatemala, who reported two teachers missing from that university.

Meanwhile, General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the president of the military regime, told foreign ambassadors accredited to his country that they should inform their respective governments of all the positive achievements the Army has made. Mejia Victores complained to the diplomatic corps that, at the United Nations, his government has erroneously been classified as one that does not respect human rights.

Reports on Missing, Dead

PA2721117 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Thirty-four people killed, nine wounded, and another 16 abducted, including three 10-year-old children, are the results of the repression unleashed by the Guatemalan military regime during the past week. Among those kidnapped were a university student, two religious men, and a lawyer. San Carlos University rector Eduardo Meyer has charged that professors Carlos Eugenio de Leon and Carlos Rolando Penagos are missing.

In addition, the Guatemalan regime has announced that 12,000 U.S.-made Remington rifles, purchased from Israel, will soon arrive in the country. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade has disclosed that diplomatic negotiations are being carried out to speed up the shipment of this arms cargo, which is currently in storage in Miami. Observers have noted that the Israeli regime is one of those most favored by U.S. military aid, and that Washington uses the Zionist state as a front to export arms.

HONDURAS

OFFICIAL NOTES ARRIVAL OF 1,053 MISKITO REFUGEES

PA2721840 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Report by Marco Tulio Romero]

[Excerpt] Retired Colonel Abraham Garcia Turcios, coordinator of the refugees in Honduras, referred yesterday to the real situation involving the Nicaraguan Miskito refugees in Gracias a Dios Department, following a fact-finding tour he made with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' representative in Honduras. Here are Col Garcia Turcios' statements on the situation:

[Begin recording] [Garcia] For the (?record), the real situation is that 1,053 refugees have arrived from the Mocoron Camp. They are in good health and are being attended to by the volunteer groups working with the refugee program. At the moment, they have no urgent (?needs).

[Romero] Is there any harrassment in that area right now from the Sandinist People's Army?

[Garcia] No, there is no harrassment. On their way here there was some, but they were not directly harrassed. The security forces that accompanied them carried out some wargames, both during the crossing and in the march. They clashed with Sandinist forces on several occasions, but the majority of the refugees managed to cross the Coco River without any problems. [end recording]

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS FREED FROM PRISON

PA231530 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1145 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Christian Democratic leaders (Miguel Angel Ortiz) and (Victor Inocencio Peralta) were released yesterday after each paid 3,242 lempiras in bail. The two reiterated that they are innocent of the charge of rebellion against the state, which the Honduran police had accused them of in the courts. Here is a report by Danilo Antunes:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Were you mistreated while imprisoned?

[(Ortiz)] I can tell the Honduran people -- I want to be emphatic about this -- that from the moment I was kidnapped [as heard] I was not tortured. I was given some privileges in the prison, since everyone knew that I am innocent of the charges filed against me.

[(Peralta)] I feel that the power of God prevails over us Christians. Therefore, we Christian Democrats do not fear any reprisals. I have always maintained that the authorities are not very responsible for our imprisonment; instead, those who for one reason or another have made the accusations against us are the ones responsible. In any case, I was sure that since we are innocent we would be released by the power of God. I feel satisfied with the actions of the companero leaders of the General Central Organization of Workers, the National Union of Peasants, the Christian Democratic Party, and the authorities who have been just with us. [end recording]

ARMY 'UNABLE TO QUELL' OLANCHO GUERRILLAS

PA251705 San Jose LA NACION INTERNACIONAL in Spanish 22-28 December 83 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- A high-ranking Armed Forces officer recently stated that the Honduran Army has been unable to quell the guerrilla outbreak that has emerged in the country's mountains. General Daniel Bali Castillo, commander of the Public Security Forces, stated: "We cannot say that the guerrilla group the appeared in June in the Olancho mountains has been eradicated." The Olancho region is 140 km east of Tegucigalpa. Referring to the rebel group, the officer said: "These people are implementing a plan."

In July, the Armed Forces presented several people who claimed they had deserted from a group of 96 guerrillas trained in Cuba.

PEASANT LEADER PREDICTS LAND TAKEOVERS IN 1984

PA240256 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] Teofilo Trejo Perez, secretary for conflicts for the National Unity Front of Honduran Peasnats (FUNACAMPH), said yesterday that the agrarian reform process in 1983 has been "totally negative" as far as the FUNACAMPH is concerned. He added that over 60 percent of the peasant families affiliated with the FUNACAMPH have no land and that the National Agrarian Institute has made no response to a request for 192,000 manzanas of land and 50 million lempiras for use in partially improving the peasants' living conditions.

Trejo Perez said that if the agrarian reform process remains stagnant next year, "we will have no option but to stage massive land recoveries, even if the blood of some peasants must be spilled."

The peasant leader regretted that the government "lacks the political determination to accelerate the agrarian reform process in the country. The peasant masses are completely displeased with the Liberal government because it promised them many things in the electoral campaigns." He added that in the last 2 years the peasant organizations have been "waiting to see if the government corrects its position toward the peasants; we have been willing to cooperate with the regime, but we see that it is of no use."

Finally, he said that the peacefulness maintained by the peasant organizations results in part "from the repression that has been unleashed in the countryside. It seems that the government wants to maintain apparent tranquillity and peace by suppressing the peasants; I doubt that there will be enough jails in 1984 to lock up the many peasants who will be demanding land."

NICARAGUA

FDN ANNOUNCES CREATION OF GOVERNMENT IN EXILE

PA280226 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Dec 83

[By Juan Antonio de Lucas]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 27 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) today announced the creation of an embryonic provisional government in exile. The military organization, which has been fighting the Nicaraguan regime along the Honduran border for more than a year, took this decisive step to counter the Sandinists on the political front as well.

According to the document creating the civic-military leadership of the FDN, "the immediate administration and direction of the political and military forces of the organization will be in the hands of that leadership, which will be supported by five executive organizations."

According to the anti-Sandinist leaders, the civic-military junta "will be composed of citizens of various socioeconomic sectors and democratic ideologies from throughout the national territory." Adolfo Calero, FDN president, explained that this decision was made to "direct the mission of freeing the fatherland from Cuban-Soviet domination." He added: "We want to install a regime of liberties, within the Western Christian concept of man and society, that responds to the historical interests of the Nicaraguan people."

The five organizations supporting the new leadership organization will be a strategic command, supply centers, and medical, civil, and communications services.

Adolfo Calero will be the commander in chief of the civic-military junta. He will be supported by Enrique Bermudez in military affairs, by Edgar Chamorro in communications, and by Indalecio Rodriguez in civil services.

HUMBERTO ORTEGA SUMMARIZES MILITARY SITUATION

PA272023 Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 27 Dec (AFP) -- Commander Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Nicaraguan defense minister, announced today that Nicaragua "will continue to develop its land, air and sea defense plans to face an eventual military intervention by the United States" in 1984.

Speaking at an official ceremony held in memory of Sandinist heroes and martyrs, Ortega said that Nicaragua cannot abandon its military preparedness because "we cannot dismiss the possibility that the United States will decide to pursue a policy of force rather than a policy of reason and prudence.

The defense minister said that the Reagan administration has come to realize that the counterrevolutionaries, by themselves, are not capable of liberating a parcel of territory on which to establish a provisional government.

In that regard, he said that next year "the gravest danger lies in acts of provocation intended to start a war between Honduras and Nicaragua that would give leeway for U.S. troop involvement."

"The counterrevolution will play an increasingly subservient role to the plans hatched by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Honduran high command," the Sandinist leader declared.

According to Ortega Saavedra, the CIA intends to use the Miskito Indians in Nicaragua's northeast, near the Honduran border, "as one of the pretexts for an invasion," and he revealed that his government is considering the possibility of allowing free exit from Nicaragua to all those Miskitos who wish to leave.

Ortega suggested that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) visit the area where some 70,000 Miskitos live, to carry out a census "and in this way to learn who wants to leave and who wants to stay."

The commander also said that the case involving Bluefields bishop Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, who accompanied more than 1,000 Miskitos into Honduras last week, was the object of "a misinformation campaign by the pro-imperialist news agencies."

The head of the Sandinist army declared that the three large counterrevolutionary offensives (February, July, and December) "were and are being defeated."

He said that the Army "is defeating the plans of terror and sabotage" that several thousand fighters in the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) and the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) are instigating in northern and southeastern Nicaragua.

"As of 15 December, 1,824 counterrevolutionaries have been killed, out of a total of 2,414 casualties caused by the Sandinist army, which has suffered only 300 dead," the defense minister added.

SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS RELEASED FROM PRISON

PA27/0206 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Managua, 26 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- This afternoon the Sandinist government released Feliciano Polanco and Julio Ramon Montes Martinez, leaders of the opposition Social Christian Party [PSC], who had both been imprisoned for 19 months on charges of being "counterrevolutionaries."

Polanco, who said that he had not received any visits from his relatives for the last 5 months, had originally been sentenced to 6 years in prison, but was later declared innocent by the Supreme Court of Justice.

Montes Martinez benefitted from the pardon granted by the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

Polanco, who is president of his party in a northern town, and Montes Martinez, from the western city of Leon, were turned over to PSC National Directors Agustin Vega and Francisco Rodriguez in the presence of several journalists.

According to Raul Cordon, chief of the national penitentiary system, no PSC member is currently being held in any of the country's prisons. This has been confirmed by the PSC directors.

MINISTER VIEWS 1984 ECONOMIC, TRADE OUTLOOKS

PA271512 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The foreign trade minister has said that we have not been affected by the North American measures.

We can assert that Nicaragua has not been affected during the past year, despite the military, economic, and political attacks on us by U.S. imperialism, Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca told Radio Sandino last night. He said that export projections for 1984 are almost identical to those of 1983. He added that we are learning how to rationalize imports and that he foresees no drastic changes in foreign trade. He did note, however, that Nicaragua's trade with the other Central American nations has dropped and said that this is worrisome.

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT APPROVES EMERGENCY FOOD AID

PA231534 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Stockholm -- Olof Palme's government has approved $1.2 million in emergency food aid for Nicaragua, in light of Nicaragua's harsh economic situation.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry announced this yesterday in a document stating that this aid is being given because of the economic blockade set up against Nicaragua by the United States and many other countries which have withdrawn their financial aid.

The Swedish Government also explained its aid by noting that the sabotage of Nicaragua's fuel deposits by opposition groups has caused serious supply problems.

CUBAN TRADE, COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED

PA271553 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] At a ceremony last night, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Government Junta, and Osmani Cienfuegos, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, signed the Cooperation and Economic Exchange Agreement that will go into effect next year.

The ceremony was held at the Government's Protocol House in Managua. Cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, and some Cuban Embassy personnel were present.

Ramirez said in a speech that the agreement deepens the exchanges between our two peoples and constitutes a further step toward stronger ties between Cuba and Nicaragua.

The Cuban Government representatives said that the past year has provided rich experience for the two countries.

He stressed his appreciation of the Nicaraguans' efforts to meet their commercial commitments to Cuba despite the difficulties created by the North American government.

The Cooperation and Economic Exchange Agreement signed last night by the Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments establishes the amount of trade that will take place between our two countries, Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca said. He told Radio Sandino that trade between Cuba and Nicaragua will amount to over $40 million in 1984. Cuba will send electric appliances, raw materials for industry, and medicine, while Nicaragua will send instant coffee, chemical products, and cotton [word indistinct] to Cuba, he said.

TIRADO DECRIES LABOR 'FRICTION' IN PRODUCTION

PA231735 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Dec 83 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado has urged technicians, professionals, and workers in the various production sectors to put an end to situations of friction that exist among them. Commander Tirado made this critical appeal during the ceremony to evaluate the 1983 industrial activity of the People's Property Area [APP] enterprises.

The message directed to APP authorities and technicians included an analysis of the difficult situation that the APP sector endured this year because of human resources and financial problems in agriculture and livestock, manufacturing, and other national economic development areas.

The Sandinist leader broadly discussed the country's continuing need to use foreign exchange to face the political and military aggressions of the enemies of the revolution. He noted that Nicaragua's diplomatic and political struggle requires this type of currency.

Against Piracy and Disorder

Commander Tirado said that despite all the problems, significant advances have been made in the agricultural and industrial sectors. However, he pointed to problems such as the pirating of technicians and qualified employees. The worst part of the problem is not the pirating, since the agricultural and livestock sector benefits from that, but the disorderly manner in which it takes place. He admitted, however, that the disorder is also a result of objective situations such as the brief period the revolution has been in power.

WHEELOCK ON LOSSES DUE TO CONTRA ATTACKS

PA220400 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Excerpts] More than 220 people killed in the agrarian sector and approximately 500 million cordobas in losses in the rural sector are the results of attacks by Somozist counterrevolutionary bands thus far this year, Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, member of the FSLN National Directorate and MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform] minister stressed, as he bade farewell to hundreds of internationalists, members of the Maurice Bishop Production Brigade, at an event held at Nonaligned Square.

[Begin Wheelock Roman recording] We have received two very painful reports:

One of them is that Somozist Guardsmen, those whom the CIA is passing off as Nicaraguans -- these Somozist bands are disguised as Nicaraguans -- went to an area in San Juan de Rio Coco and destroyed a cooperative with everthing this cooperative had accumulated, which wasn't much. This cooperative was formed by peasants who never had any land during Somoza's term, but who received land from the generous hands of the revolution. They received some of the best lands in Nicaragua. This band destroyed the peasant settlement and killed nine peasants.

The second report is that a band that entered our territory from Honduras went to Francia Sirpe, near the border, violently dislodged Miskito peasants who live in that town, and kidnapped Monsignor Salvador Schlaeffer, the Atlantic coast bishop.

The counterrevolutionary bands had tried to seize El Cua, Jinotega Department, a few days before. They spent an entire day trying to destroy the town, but the courage of the residents, whom the revolution has armed to defend themselves, prevented the counterrevolutionary bands from achieving their criminal plans. However, we lost 14 persons. They were not members of our best battalions. They were Nicaraguan peasants who defended the revolution and the achievements of the revolution, in other words, their land. [end recording]

FDN CLAIMS SUCCESSES OVER EPS TROOPS IN CLASHES

PA2218S0 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1655 GMT 22 Dec 83

[By Francisco Javier Mejia]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Dec (ACAN-EFE) -- The persistent offensive by the anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) has inflicted more than 100 casualities on the Sandinist Peoples Army (EPS) in the provinces of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega, according to rebel spokesmen.

Among the most important EPS losses, according to an FDN spokesman, is the death of Commander Orlando Lumbi, who was responsible for defense of the La Pita collective farm in Jinotega.

A "collective" farm is an agricultural production center based on the social concept of work and benefits, although the rebels say that it really involves "concentration camps" where the peasants are forced to produce food for the Sandinist army. La Pita collective farm is located 15 km northeast of Wiwili, a township that has been under heavy siege by the anti-Sandinist rebels since Saturday.

In the La Pita fighting the Sandinist troops sustained 47 casualities, according to rebel sources, who also claimed to have recovered 17 AK-47 rifles, 14 Garand rifles, a large amount of communications equipment, and other materiel.

Explosions during the clash destroyed 67 Soviet-made rifles as well as 13 military transport vehicles, the source added.

Near La Pita, Commander Z-10 of the FDN ambushed a Nicaraguan state security vehicle, killing its occupants after a rapid but intense exchange of fire. In the action the anti-Sandinists seized 11 AK-47 rifles and a Galil rifle, sources added.

The clandestine radio station "15 September" reported today that FDN commandos were locked in combat Monday with the EPS on the highway between Achuapa and Santa Clara in Nueva Segovia.

The rebel broadcast claimed that the anti-Sandinist rebels had inflicted 57 casualties on the government troops and seized 18 AK-47 rifles, one "LAW" rocket launcher, and a radio transmitter. In the action three FDN members were killed and eight were wounded, the radio station added, saying that the government troops belonged to Battalion 40-14.

The rebel station termed the FDN campaign "victorious," and added that the fighting between rebel and government troops has encompassed vast stretches of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega, extending as far as the central region of Nicaragua at times.

PEOPLE'S MILITIAS REPEL TASK FORCE ATTACK

PA231523 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Some 500 members of a task force led by the genocidal Tono were unable to seize (El Cua) municipality in Jinotega last Tuesday. There were repelled by the members of the Territorial Sandinist People's Militias organized in the north.

In 7 hours of relentless fighting, and despite the enemy's heavy fire, our militiamen inflicted 16 casualties on these criminals whom the reaction's newspaper LA PRENSA longs to see back in Nicaragua.

It is worth noting that 12 glorious militiamen gave their valuable lives and 17 others were injured in that clash.

During the criminal attack launched by these genocidal elements backed by the CIA, the civilian defense organization of the people of (El Cua) was put to the test. Due to their organization, only one civilian was killed and one small girl was wounded.

After their attack, the Somozist dogs left several 60-mm mortars at the site along with automatic rifles of the G-3, FAL, and Chinese AK types, a .60-cal machinegun, other military equipment, and propaganda pamphlets alluding to the criminal Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN.

A wounded Somozist Guardsman who dropped his rifle and surrendered in view of imminent pursuit by our Armed Forces and the Sandinist People's Militia of (El Cua) was also captured.

JUNTA OFFICIAL ON RESULTS OF FIGHTING IN 1983

PA261556 Managua International Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Captain Alejandro Guevara, Government Junta minister-delegate, has reported that the Somozist counterrevolution suffered crushing defeats in Nicaragua's southern area in 1983, which is drawing to an end.

He pointed out that in Rio San Juan Department alone, on the Costa Rican border, 13 camps were dismantled and almost 200 of traitor Eden Pastora's Somozist followers were killed.

Guevara also reported that the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, inflicted dozens of injuries on the counterrevolutionaries coming from Costa Rican territory, and that some 30 conterrevolutionaries deserted, turning their weapons in to the EPS.

Finally, he reported that some 500 families were relocated due to the constant Somozist threats in that area.

SIXTH REGION COMMANDERS VIEW RECENT FIGHTING

PAZ40340 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Military authorities of the 6th Region, which includes Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments, offered an overall assessment this morning of the military situation there.

Guerrilla commanders Alonso Porras, political secretary of the 6th Regional Committee, and Manuel Salvatierra, the area's military commander, reported on the counter-revolutionaries' plans to seize some border towns in the area north of Jinotega.

Commander Salvatierra said that in the last 15 days, 24 clashes have taken place in La Vigia, El Coco, Wiwili, and other places in the region. He said that 42 Somozist beasts have been killed and that 40 civilians have fallen in the clashes.

Salvatierra stressed the way in which the region's border towns are organized to confront the enemy's attacks, and the role that has been played by the Territorial Sandinist People's Militias.

VOICE OF SANDINO NOTES ARDE ACTIVITIES

Attack on Garrison

PAZ70447 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 131 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's armed forces, "in the Nicaraguan mountains," on 22 December 1983]

[Text] The General Command of the armed forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, reports to the Nicaraguan and other peoples of the world:

1. That at 2000 on 19 December 1983, the Wenceslao Aviles column of the [name indistinct] Platoon, under the command of Companero Ringo, attacked a garrison of the army of occupation located in (El Gursamo), La Azucena jurisdiction, Rio San Juan.

2. That as a result of this clash, numerous casualties, some of them seriously injured, were inflicted on the enemy. The garrison was damaged and the armed militiamen there fled (?in disarray).

3. That following the clash, and after our forces had withdrawn in an orderly fashion toward the mountains, EPS [Sandinist People's Army] Companero Teofilo Muriles Avila, member of the garrison at La Azucena, voluntarily asked to join ARDE, bringing with him all his military gear. He urges his companeros to follow his example and to give their total support to the struggle for the liberation of Nicaragua.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past.

ARDE 19 Dec Activities

PA270443 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 134 issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance's armed forces "in the Nicaraguan mountains," on 23 December 1983]

[Text] The General Command of the armed forces of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance ARDE, reports to the Nicaraguan and other peoples of the world:

1. That at 0800 on 19 December 1983, the (Mauricio Sanchez Oyon) column, which belongs to the (Lieure) zone, completely destroyed the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] facilities in Finca Santa Ana, near Colon, Rio San Juan Department.

2. That our forces had to provide protection for many civilians living in the nearby areas so they could safely take refuge in neighboring Costa Rica.

3. That our combative morale remains high. At present we are making renewed efforts connected with the libertarian tasks for the recovery of our revolution.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past.

ARDE 23, 24 Dec Actions

PA271251 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 27 Dec 83

[War Bulletin No 135 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, armed forces General Command, "in the Nicaraguan mountains," on 26 December 1983]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguans and the world's free peoples that:

1. At 1100 on 23 December 1983, the Francisco Lloyd column, under the command of Saturno, ambushed two small boats belonging to the army of occupation in (Masayita), in the jurisdiction of Punta Gorda.

2. The 24 EPS [Sandinist People's Army] members traveling in these two boats were annihilated, as were the boats themselves. Our squads later noticed the presence of an enemy barge carrying over 60 reinforcements, who disembarked in (Cano El Masayon) in an effort to catch Saturno's unit off guard.

3. Our units counter-ambushed these units twice, falling on the enemy and killing 30.

4. We also report that at 1300 on the same day, one of Saturno's unit ambushed an EPS battalion in (Masayon Arriba), killing eight. At 1500 on the same day, in (Masayon Abajo), another Saturno unit ambushed a small boat, whose occupants disembarked and were totally wiped out. Six men were killed. Our forces were victorious in all of these clashes. In all, 60 [as heard] members of the interventionist army died as a result.

Without totalitarianism or a return to the past.

HAVANA REPORTAGE COVERS PROTEST, MISKITOS, CLASHES

Protest at U.S. Embassy

FL241600 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Family members of campesinos who were murdered in northern Nicaragua have protested against U.S. support for counterrevolutionary groups.

The campesinos, including widows of those who died in the attack on a cooperative near the Coco River on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border, attempted to deliver a letter to U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton, but he left as the delegation arrived.

Near the entrance to the embassy, the campesinos left caps and shoes of the campesinos who were murdered at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Cooperative.

Miskito Exodus Communique Cited

PA242257 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Today the Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry charged that the U.S. Government and the Tegucigalpa regime participated in the kidnapping of the Miskitos from Francia Sirpe, who were forcefully taken to Honduras by counterrevolutionary groups.

The Foreign Ministry's communique notes that the Miskitos' trip to Honduras, the fact that they were received by that country's authorities, and the official U.S. statements on the Indians' march through Nicaragua's mountains all serve to confirm that Washington and Tegucigalpa share responsibility for the mass kidnapping.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry communique also refers to the news conference that Bluefields Bishop Salvador Schlaeffer held in Tegucigalpa yesterday, saying that the prelate's comments completely prove that armed counterrevolutionaries kidnapped the Indians and forced them to leave their fatherland against their will.

The document adds that the Nicaraguan Government assessed the difficult circumstances in which the news conference was held by Schlaeffer, who was surrounded by members of the MISURA counterrevolutionary organization. It stresses that the Bluefields bishop and three other clergymen who were taken to Honduras along with the Miskitos can return to Nicaraguan territory whenever they wish.

Finally, Nicaragua condemned the propaganda campaign undertaken by the CIA to make the world believe that the citizens of that Central American country find it necessary to emigrate en masse.

Ortega on Counterrevolutionaries

PA260209 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has declared that the infiltration of some 3,000 counterrevolutionaries into the northern sector of the country is intended to frighten the peasant population and create the false impression that there is popular dissatisfaction with the Sandinist revolution.

However, he noted, the enemy has already suffered over 40 casualties without having been able to move deeper into the national territory, thanks to the firm resistance of the organized and armed people. He said that the invasion is affecting the northern departments of Madriz, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, and Zelaya, where the counterrevolutionaries murder the peasants and try to kidnap the Miskitos and later claim their voluntary enlistment in their forces to fight against the Sandinist revolution.

In that respect, Ortega referred to the recent enemy operation against the community of Francia Sirpe, where a bishop, three other clergymen, and a group of Miskito residents were kidnapped.

Finally, Daniel Ortega praised the attitude of a large group of citizens from Western Europe and the United States who have voluntarily left for the mountain regions of Nicaragua to help in the coffee picking activities. The presence of these people, he concluded, shows the peoples' rejection of the increasing imperialist hostility toward Nicaragua.

Counterrevolutionary Deaths

FL241524 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] A total of 42 counterrevolutionaries were killed in Nicaragua while fighting in the border department of Jinotega, where 40 campesinos were murdered during the past 2 weeks.

Commander Manuel Salvatierra, chief of the general staff of the Third Military Zone, stated that in just one unsuccessful attempt to take the town of (Kwa), 18 former Somozist guards died.

Contra Death Toll

PA241811 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Reports from Nicaragua have disclosed that 42 counterrevolutionaries were killed in combat in Jinotega Department.

Nicaraguan Commander Manuel Salvatierra, chief of the general staff of the 3d Military Region, explained that 24 clashes have occurred since 9 December when the infiltration of approximately 2,000 counterrevolutionaries began. He stressed that the rebels' main objective is to destroy farm cooperatives in the border area.

BRIEFS

USSR DONATION -- The USSR has donated 3,300 kgs of medicine to the Nicaraguan Health Ministry. The medicine was delivered by USSR ambassador to Nicaragua, German Shlyapnikov, to Deputy Health Minister Mayra Pasos, as an expression of Soviet solidarity with the Nicaraguan revolution. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Dec 83 PA]

BATTALION 37-52 -- Luis Alberto Romero, the political leader of the multipurpose Battalion 37-52, has declared that this unit will remain in Region 2 [consisting of Chinandega and Leon Departments], near the Honduran border, over the Christmas holidays. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Dec 83 PA]

U.S. OVERSEAS BROADCASTS TERMED 'BRAINWASHING'

PA232350 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Dec 83

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] The use of radio as part of the CIA's aggressive actions against other countries is the subject of an article by journalist Robert Alvarez Quinonez in the Cuban newspaper GRANMA this Wednesday.

In their plans for psychological warfare, the CIA and the Pentagon are using powerful radio stations, both legal and clandestine, located both within and outside the target country. Among these stations are the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The last two operate in the FRG and were established to conduct fierce anticommunist campaigns against the socialist countries of Europe.

These radio stations have always conducted anticommunist campaigns, but since Ronald Reagan became President, these campaigns have become increasingly aggressive, openly encouraging sabotage and counterrevolution. They have played a primary role in the destabilization campaigns leveled at Poland in recent years.

The CIA prefers to use clandestine stations in these campaigns, particularly in Latin America. We could speak of many, but we are going to mention only two that played significant roles, some years apart, in counterrevolutionary propaganda campaigns. One of these stations was the Worldwide Broa'casting System, [previous three words in English], which promoted the counterrevolution in Guatemala in 1954, when Washington decided to eliminate Jacobo Arbenz' progressive government in the Central American country. They have used several clandestine stations against Cuba since 1959. Despite ostensibly private programming, these stations could not conceal their links to the CIA.

In the Middle East, after the U.S. invasion of Lebanon in 1958, the CIA set up a radio station called the Voice of Justice [Voz de la Justicia], which waged a violent subversive campaign in Arabic against Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's progressive government in Egypt. At the same time, it tried to justify the U.S. invasion of Lebanon by saying that the Soviet Union was trying to invade the Middle East.

Alvarez Quinonez stresses in his article that the Pentagon is not playing second fiddle to the CIA when it comes to psychological warfare, misinformation, ideological manipulation, and similar tasks. Alvarez Quinonez says that the Pentagon's radio and television service consists of over 300 radio stations and about 40 television stations. These radio stations are included in five networks, one of which is in the Far East, while others are in the Japanese islands, South Korea, and the Philippines. In addition, over 60 radio stations are transmitting their lying propaganda from U.S. Navy vessels stationed off the coasts of Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

With its radio and television stations, the Pentagon is exerting influence on the hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed at military bases outside U.S. territory and on the military organizations of other capitalist countries.

Newspapers, pamphlets, books, and other printed materials complete the psychological warfare effort carried out by the Pentagon, which U.S. historian Theodore White has called the best brainwashing system ever known.

LENINGRAD FETES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION

FL271918 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] The traditional internationalist friendship celebration, dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Cuban revolution, began in the Soviet city of Leningrad with the commemoration of the events in Santiago de Cuba [sentence as heard]. A Cuban delegation headed by Francisco Garcia Ferrer, member of the party Provincial Committee in Santiago de Cuba, arrived to participate in the festivities; the delegation includes members of the People's Government and of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] of this country. In a press conference, the visitors remarked that this new meeting in Leningrad symbolizes the immutable friendship of the Cuban and Soviet peoples.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES PERUVIAN APRA DELEGATION

FL271630 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Yesterday afternoon our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, received a delegation of the Peruvian APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Party, headed by Armando Villanueva del Campo, former APRA presidential candidate and noted APRA leader.

During the meeting, the grave political and economic problems confronting Latin America were analyzed. Particular attention was given to an analysis of the dangerous situation in Central America, over which the threat of intervention hangs. This threat has become greater following the events in Grenada, which have been rejected by Latin America. The first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party explained the viewpoint of the Cuban revolution on this set of problems and was informed of the viewpoint of the Peruvian APRA Party.

The APRA delegation also presented an analysis of their country's problems and the APRA viewpoint on these problems.

APRA Leader Comments on Visit

PAZ31700 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 21 Dec 83

[Text] According to Armando Villanueva, leader of Peru's APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], his current visit to Cuba was long-awaited since his previous visit to Cuba. Villanueva is in Cuba at the invitation of the Communist Party of Cuba. Villanueva explained that he had previously visited Cuba as a journalist for the newspaper TRIBUNA DE LIMA. On that occasion, Villanueva had written about Castro, stressing his great importance for our continent in the search for unity among our peoples. According to Villanueva, the Cuban revolution is a great accomplishment and an example for Latin America.

FRENCH COMMUNIST LEADER ARRIVES IN HAVANA

FL241502 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, has arrived in our country at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Marchais was met at Jose Marti International Airport by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party in the City of Havana Province. George Marchais was accompanied by Maxime Gremetz, member of the Political Bureau of the French Communist Party.

FIDEL CASTRO TO DEDICATE PUBLISHING PLANT 27 DEC

FL271321 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1206 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, will dedicate the modern publishing plant that has been built in Palma Soriano, Province of Santiago, Cuba, today at 1700 [2200 GMT].

The ceremony, which coincides with the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of that city by the rebel army, will be broadcast by national radio and television and over the international frequencies of Radio Havana, Cuba.

When working at full capacity, this modern plant will have an annual production of approximately 30 million books, brochures, and other basic texts for the country's educational system. The publishing house has three production processes: rolling [pase], printing, and binding. It also has three finishing lines located in a very hygenic and climatized room. There are currently 753 persons working at the plant, which will need 900 when it goes in to full production.

RAUL CASTRO ON INSPECTION TRIP TO CAMAGUEY

FL271413 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1209 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, yesterday inspected centers of social and economic interest in the Province of Camaguey. He was given a very warm welcome, and met with students, teachers, workers from various sectors, and political and administrative leaders.

Raul visited the General Maximo Gomez Vocational School, the publishing house, the Statistics Center, and the railway repair shops located in the capital of the province of Camaguey.

Raul was accompanied by Guillermo Garcia, member of the Politburo; Lazaro Vazquez, first secretary of the party in the Province of Camaguey; Luis Rodriguez, second party secretary in the Province of Camaguey; Juan Antonio Bravo, president of the Provincial Assembly of the People's Government in Camaguey; and by other persons.

ECONOMIC, TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NICARAGUA

FL271855 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Cuba and Nicaragua today signed an economic and trade cooperation agreement for the year 1984. The amount of this agreement surpasses $40 million. Sergio Ramirez, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, and Osmani Cienfuegos, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, signed the pertinent documents during a ceremony in which the ministers for foreign trade of the two countries participated, together with other officials.

400 MILLION RUBLE TRADE PROTOCOL WITH GDR SIGNED

FL240035 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Text] Trade between the GDR and Cuba will exceed 400 million rubles in 1984, 10 percent above 1983 levels. The trade protocol, which was signed yesterday by Cuban Vice Foreign Trade Minister Jose de la Fuente and his GDR counterpart, Dieter Lemke, is the second largest signed by Cuba, exceeded only by the one signed with the Soviet Union.

De la Fuente told PRELA that the document also includes some exchanges regarding the economic cooperation given Cuba by the GDR in important sectors. The Cuban official noted that this is not a mere exchange of products, but one more step forward on the path of the economic integration of the two countries.

Cuba will export raw and refined sugar, nickel, fresh and processed citrus fruits, honey, torula yeast, bagasse boards, and other goods to the GDR. The GDR will sell to Cuba chemical products, fertilizers, medicines, machinery equipment for the sugar industry, foodstuffs, toys, clothing, fabrics, and other products.

The protocol is part of 1981-85 bilateral trade agreement, the first one signed by the two countries in accordance with the coordination of the national economic plans of these two CEMA member countries.

CARGO SHIP RECEIVED; NEW AGREEMENT FOR TANKERS

FL261528 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] The eighth cargo ship, of nine vessels under contract, was received by Cuban officials in the capital of Romania. Julio Perez Gonzalez, sub-director of the Cuban Import Company for Merchant Fishboats, received the 4,500 ton cargo ship Guantanamo. The ship will be used for coastal traffic and for short journeys in the Caribbean.

It was reported that Cuba and Romania recently signed a new agreement for four tankers, each one weighing approximately 4,000 tons.

METALWORKERS CONTRIBUTE TO LESSENING COSTS

FL261708 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1148 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpts] During the last three months, the metal workers union has been undertaking a cost analysis of this sector. From the grassroots level upward, 103 conferences have been held to examine the issues in this area with 5,295 workers participating. Within this framework, accomplishments and efficiency rates were examined, at the same time an attempt was made to find solutions to some of the major problems in the production area.

The general outlook in this sector is very positive, since of the 99 entities and 4 units in the program, 93 were productive. Of these productive entities, 44 accomplished the goal set by the state; 49 others, although they realized a profit, did not meet the planned goals; and the other 10 were not able to cover their costs.

The principal problems encountered were in the misuse of raw materials; excessive use of fuel, lubricants, and electricity; plant underutilization; deficiencies in work organization; and so on.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

PRC TO PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AID

FL231656 Bridgetown CANA in English 1630 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Dec 23, CANA -- China is to assist Antigua and Barbuda in the fields of agriculture and education under an agreement signed here earlier this month by the two countries, an official statement said. The agreement was signed by Finance Minister John St Luce and Barbados-based Chinese ambassador to the eastern Caribbean, Wang Tao. Under the accord, Antigua and Barbuda will receive 1,000 desks and chairs for use in the country's schools, and a variety of agricultural equipment. A team of agricultural experts will also be assigned here.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND ESTABLISHED

FL231714 Bridgetown CANA in English 1620 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Dec 23, CANA -- Antigua and Barbuda and Switzerland have established diplomatic relations, and official statement here said. The agreement came into effect on December 12 and the two countries will shortly appoint non-resident ambassadors to their respective capitals. Both governments have expressed their confidence that this agreement will contribute to the enhancement of relations between the two countries and to ensuring closer and mutually beneficial ties between them, the statement said.

BARBADOS

MINISTER BARROW ON RADIO, TELEVISION SERVICES

FL261655 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] Government is investigating the economic feasibility of using satellite reception to provide Barbadians with an additional television service. Information Minister Senator Nigel Barrow disclosed this yesterday as he delivered the feature address at a ceremony to mark the commissioning of two new transmitters for the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation [CBC].

Senator Barrow said that it was to television that the Corporation was now looking for the major part of its revenue, and it was to the yet unexplored areas of this department that the CBC planners had to address their attention for ways in which to strengthen the revenue base.

In respect of the satelite service, he said that consideration had to be given to the need to ensure that Barbados did not become the mere recipients of other people's programming and allow the populace to be dominated by the values of other societies. On the other hand, he submitted: "This must be balanced against the need to guard against insularity by tapping the information centres of technologically advanced societies and affording ourselves exposure to the systems and ideas of different societies." He added: "Only our own creativity can achieve the integration of telecommunications in the Caribbean as an agent of social, cultural and economic growth."

The minister also announced that parliamentary debates may be broadcast more frequently on radio next year. He said he hoped that when the FM transmission at CBC was fully established, that both CBC and Parliament will agree that it was time for debates to be broadcast with far greater frequency than at present.

He said that when broadcast facilities are provided in Parliament as part of extensive improvements planned next year, broadcast stations will then have the facility not only to bring live broadcasts to the public on a regular basis, but also to record material for use in their current affairs programming.

Senator Barrow said: "It is this kind of programming that forges essential links between the public and the legislator, makes the legislator more accountable, and ensures our continuation as a free and democratic state."

GRENADA

HAVANA ON U.S. TROOP ALERT, GUERRILLA ACTION

FL271739 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1508 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Charles Gillespie, chief of the Yankee mission in Grenada, has stated to THE NEW YORK TIMES that the U.S. forces stationed on Grenada have been put on combat alert. This measure was implemented as a result of the increasing opposition to the puppet government of Sir Paul Scoon and the invading troops by former members of the Grenada Armed Forces and militia, who are now clandestinely operating.

These fighting men, who remain faithful to the late Maurice Bishop's example and legacy, and who tenaciously opposed the interventionist army, are now clandestinely operating in a guerrilla war that is being carried out in the city. [as heard]

This is why the island of Grenada is, according to former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, literally drowning in officials of the U.S. intelligence service.

The specialists from the U.S. Information Service on Grenada not only interrogate the prisoners, but they also create networks of informers to discover supporters of the murdered Maurice Bishop. In this respect, the Yankee troops have carried out a purge in the ministries, where they have kicked out everyone who in one way or another supported the former Bishop government.

The escalation of repression in Grenada is running parallel to an extensive brain-washing campaign, which is being carried out by a special Yankee batallion that deals in psychological warfare, in which loudspeakers are used to spew out lies and threats. Moreover, the U.S. media itself acknowledges that this campaign is not achieving its objective, and today, 2 months after the invasion, the memory of Maurice Bishop is still very fresh in the minds of the majority of Grenadians.

BRATHWAITE WARNS AGAINST 'ATTEMPT AT SUBVERSION'

FL271839 Bridgetown CANA in English 1652 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 27 (CANA) -- Grenada's interim government says it will try to find jobs for hundreds of former soldiers and members of paramilitary groups disbanded after the U.S.-led invasion of the island in October. But Chairman Nicholas Brathwaite warned against any attempt at subversion.

Brathwaite was speaking in a radio broadcast against the background of continuing fears expressed by some Grenadians that remnants of the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), dissolved after the military intervention, could present security problems for the administration.

"We would do everything possible to provide opportunities for former members of the PRA and the Militia to obtain employment and live normal lives as members of one family of united Grenadians," he said. He said that the government would not take lightly any subversive activities by those who are not prepared "to accept the reality of the present situation.

"Law and order must be preserved, and no one would be permitted to disrupt the peace and tranquility which we now enjoy, " Brathwaite said. Subversion and violence will be stamped out. We shall not allow the few to instill fear in the hearts of the majority," Brathwaite added.

Forces from the United States and seven Caribbean nations intervened in Grenada last October 25 to oust the Army which had taken power in a violent coup six days earlier. Several leading figures in the Army have been detained in Richmond Hill Prison.

A Caribbean peace-keeping force of about 500 and 300 U.S. military advisers and troops are responsible for Grenada's security until a police force can be trained. Brathwaite said that the government will reopen community police stations closed by the deposed left-wing government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, who was killed in the October 19 coup. Bishop's regime de-emphasised the role of the police in favor of the the army.

25 OCTOBER INSTITUTED AS 'LIBERATION DAY'

FL231225 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] In Caribbean news: A spokesman in St Georges says Grenada's interim government will replace the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop's annual revolution celebration with a national holiday celebrating the U.S. intervention in the country.

The spokesman said the 1984 almanac, due to be released in several weeks, will list October 25th as Liberation Day in honor of the U.S. intervention that toppled the island's Revolutionary Military Government. Government officials say they will remove from the list of government holidays the March 13th anniversary of the 1979 coup that brought Maurice Bishop in to power.

FOUR SENTENCED TO HANG BY PRG FREED BY SCOON

FL232345 Bridgetown CANA in English 2145 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Dec 23, CANA -- Grenada's Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon, acting on the advice of the island's Mercy Committee, has pardoned four young Grenadians, including one woman, who were sentenced to death a year ago for the 1980 Queen's Park bomb blast murders, an official source said today.

Grace Augustine, Kenneth Budhlall, Russel Budhall, and Layne Phillip were sentenced to hang in November 1982 for the deaths of three persons when a bomb exploded at a rally sponsored by the former People's Revolutionary Government (PRG).

But following the October U.S.-led military intervention, the four walked out of the prison like all other prisoners. Augustin and Kenneth Budhlall were later taken back into custody but the whereabouts of the other two were unknown.

"As far as I know, they have been pardoned. But I can't say if they have been released," the source told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

The four were tried under the former government's terrorism prevention law which provided for trial without a jury. A high-level prison source has confirmed that both Augustine and Budhlall have been released. "They have been released on the order of the governor-general," the source told CANA.

ST CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS

PRIME MINISTER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO NATION

FL261927 Bridgetown CANA in English 1912 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Basseterre, St Kitts, Dec 26 (CANA) -- St Kitts/Nevis Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds has said that his country's independence from Britain last September had enabled it to contribute to the U.S.-led invasion of Grenada in October.

"Much of the stuff of which independence is made was required to deal with the recent Grenada situation," Dr Simmonds said in a Christimas message. "On hearing of the cold blooded murder of Bishop and some cabinet colleagues, we here in St Kitts and Nevis, just as in other Caribbean countries, felt a genuine moral responsibility to arrive at a decision without delay to what we could do to help," Simmonds said.

Simmonds said that Bishop had attended St Kitts-Nevis independence celebrations the month prior to his death, and had paid tribute to the country's emergence in to the inter-national community.

"...Whatever ideological differences there were between us, and there were some, we accepted Maurice Bishop and the people of Grenada as part of our regional brotherhood, Simmonds said. The St Kitts-Nevis prime minister told his countrymen that having attained independence, they must move from the sense of national accomplishment and adopt a wider view of the world and St Kitts-Nevis' place in it.

"We must broaden and deepen our commitment to regional development and cohesion. We must take stock of our ever-expanding horizon in order to formulate a proper conception of international relations and our role in fostering the ideas and principles of the Charter of the United Nations," Simmonds said. He added that the true test of independence lay in the independence of the people, their maturity and desire to cooperate with each other, their ability to have healthy differences without resorting to violence and destructiveness, and their readiness to protect and preserve their institutions.

"Being accepted as the 58th member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the 161st member of UNESCO and the 158th member of the United Nations was not all to be desired in becoming an independent nation," Simmonds said.

He urged citizens to rededicate themselves to the pursuit of happiness and to the ideals of togetherness and understanding which, he said, were at the core of the federation of the two islands. Simmonds also urged his countrymen to project a proper image of their country to the world.

1984 NATIONAL BUDGET APPROVED BY ASSEMBLY

FL231413 Bridgetown CANA in English 1350 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Dec 23 (CANA) -- The St Kitts-Nevis Parliament has approved the twin island states' national budget for 1984, after three successive days of debate.

The 1984 estimates project recurrent expenditures at 54,850,905 dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) and recurrent revenue at 65,984,030 dollars. The opposition walked out of the Assembly before the vote was taken.

Opposition Attacks Budget

FL222135 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 22 Dec 83

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, Dec 22 (CANA) -- The St Kitts and Nevis opposition leader today attacked government's 1984 budget of 65.8 million dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.), describing it as "a litany of woe."

During parliamentary debate on the tax-free budget presented Tuesday, opposition Labour Party leader Lee Moore said it contained no strategies to reduce the cost of living and improve the unemployment situation.

In his budget address, Finance Minister Simeon Daniel said government's economic programme was geared to providing employment in all sectors. In his contribution today, Daniel said: "The government intends to continue its programme of economic development so that the national income will increase to such an extent that all of government's needed revenue could be raised without the introduction of too many tax measures." Debate on the budget was continuing this afternoon.

St Kitts and Nevis, which gained independence from Britain on September 19, relies on tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing for its foreign revenues.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON ECONOMY, CARICOM

FL261609 Bridgetown CANA in English 1536 GMT 26 Dec 83

[By Michael Findlay]

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, Dec 26 (CANA) -- The St Vincent and the Grenadines economy is well poised to achieve four per cent real growth during 1983, thanks to an ease in the international recession, stable oil prices and good financial management by the government, Prime Minister Milton Cato said yesterday.

In a Christmas message, broadcast on radio and television, Cato said continued expansion in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and a more rapid growth in agriculture had also fueled government's optimism that this projected economic growth rate will be achieved.

He said: "The economy of the states continues to perform creditably and we are confident that our forefront of an anticipated real growth of four percent during 1983... will be achieved."

But Cato, who is also minister of finance, said government was concerned about the country's vital banana industry in view of a recent drop in the green market price (GMP) for bananas on the United Kingdom market and the falling value of sterling against the U.S. dollar.

Bananas account for more than half of the foreign exchange earnings of St Vincent and the Grenadines. Within the last two months, the green market price has fallen from 430 pounds per ton to as low as 370 pounds.

Cato announced short-and long-term plans by the St Vincent Electricity Services (VINLEC) to improve the country's power supply system, and reduce the spate of black-outs that plagued the country this year due to the company's faulty generating equipment.

The Prime Minister said parts to effect repairs to some of VINLEC's equipment had already arrived and repairs would be carried out at an early date. In addition, three new generators, already here, will be commissioned into use early in the new year, he added.

Speaking about the 13-nation Caribbean Community (Caricom), the Vincentian leader said trade problems and the decision of some member countries, including St Vincent and the Grenadines, to participate in the October U.S.-led military intervention in Grenada had caused a split in the community.

Cato said the present rift in Caricom was "a passing phase" and he was optimistic that it "will soon be mended and that the integration movement will continue on its path towards consolidation.

Cato, a former member of the Canadian Army who fought in World War II, said he prayed that all nations would come to realise the futility of war. He hoped that a formula can be found for the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

"Let us pray that for the benefit of all mankind (that) some formula can be found for the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons from the face of the earth," the St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister said.

Mitchell Scores Economic Policy

FL271451 Bridgetown CANA in English 1430 GMT 27 Dec 83

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Dec 27 (CANA) -- Opposition leader James Mitchell said here that St. Vincent and the Grenadines was ending the year with its economy in the doldrums.

Attacking the Milton Cato administration as indifferent, Mitchell said its policies were a recipe for disaster and were causing hatred and frustration in the country.

He warned they could create circumstances leading to "riot, rebellion or revolution.

"It is not too much for each of us to demand that our country be run fairly," Mitchell, leader of the New Democratic Party and premier for two years in the early 1970's, said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Milton Cato said the economy of the state was projected to end the year with a real growth rate of four per cent.

Mitchell said the main economic sectors of the island's economy were in the doldrums. He said that bananas were being left back in the territory because of a glut on the vital British market, the arrowroot industry was in debt and still had stocks from last years crop, and the tourist industry was run unimaginatively.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PRESENTATION OF 1984 BUDGET WILL BE DELAYED

FL231339 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister George Chambers is expected to delay presentation of the nation's 1984 budget until January, while he works out loan agreements with international organizations.

Trinidad's Government usually presents its budget to the House of Representatives in December. However, loan negotiations have been going on and mid Central Bank reports of faltering foreign reserves, caused by lower world prices for oil. [sentence as heard]

COLOMBIA

MINISTER SEES AGRICULTURAL SECTOR RECOVERY

PA242247 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 20 Dec 83 pp 1, 10 A

[Excerpts] Yesterday Agriculture Minister Gustavo Castro Guerrero said that the acute crisis that the agricultural and livestock sector has endured both internally and externally is now being overcome. The minister estimated the growth in this sector this year at 1 percent, and promised "to work nonstop" to consolidate policies that will stimulate rural sector development.

In a discussion with journalists who specialize in agricultural and livestock information, the minister stressed that the rural area is going through a period of definite recovery, but he noted that "if our estimates are to bear out, the determined participation of all trade unions and state employees in all of the decentralized organizations is necessary."

Castro Guerrero announced that the ministry has decided to endorse the agricultural and livestock fairs in all Colombian towns, adding that 70 million pesos will be made available in 1984 by the Fund for Agricultural and Livestock Development.

ECUADOR

PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS

PA262030 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Text] A PRC delegation arrived in Quito this weekend to implement agreements that have been signed between the PRC and Ecuador. It has been officially announced that the visiting delegation will hold meetings at the Foreign Ministry and other state ministries today primarily to discuss technical cooperation agreements.

The delegation is being led by Mr (Feng Xizhou), deputy general director of the Foreign Assistance Department of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. Other members are (Liu Zhenhua), (Song Suyo), other officials from that ministry, and (Chen Lai) and (Su Hukui) of the Economy and Trade Department of Jiangsu Province.

The purpose of the meetings is to implement the agreements that were reached in February 1983 when Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez visited the PRC.

CEPE DROPS OIL PRICE FOR FIRST QUARTER 1984

PA231857 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] The board of directors of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, fixed the price per barrel of oil at $27.50 FOB [no place given] for the first quarter of 1984, a decrease of $0.70 in the price effective until the end of this year, according to reports. The decision was made to adapt the price structure of Ecuadoran crude to current circumstances on the international market, and to improve the conditions for negotiating petroleum sales on foreign market.

CEPE's difficulties in placing oil on the international market have forced the state firm to increase floating sotrage, which is at 1.4 million barrels of crude.

The decision means that the country's income will be reduced by $6.16 million per day, equivalent to 388.8 million sucres. It this price is maintained throughout 1984, the income from oil will be reduced by $2,217,600,000, equivalent to 124.185 billion sucres if an export quota of 88,000 barrels of petroleum per day is maintained.

GUYANA

FIVE VENEZUELAN BOATS AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE

PA240122 Paris AFP in Spanish 2231 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 23 Dec (AFP) -- Official sources announced here today that five Venezuelan fishing boats seized by the Guyanese Navy last month have been authorized to leave. It was announced that the five fishing boats ("Nueva Elena," "Luz Mary," "Letimar," "Mary Carmen," and "Esperanto") will sail from here today.

The five captains were accused of illegally fishing within the Guyanese 200-mile economic zone, in waters off the Essequibo coast. The case was closed 2 days ago when the five captains changed their plea from not guilty to guilty, it was reported.

SURINAME

STRIKE AFFECTS MINES, ELECTRICITY, WATER SERVICES

FL231351 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Text] In Paramaribo, Suriname, defiant union members shut down the country's bauxite mines and left part of the capital city without electricity and water in a wildcat strike yesterday. Workers are protesting plans to raise taxes next year.